ARAB TIMES

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Cabinet declares New Year holidays

Non-aligned invites Amir; Kuwait week in Uzbekistan

JWAIT, July 30, (KUNA): This Wednesday d Thursday have been declared as public 'idays to mark the advent of the first and cond days of the new Islamic Year 1410 AH cording to a decision by the Council of Mini-rs at their regular cabinet weekly session held terday. The meeting was presided over by ting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh ah Al Ahmed.

The cabinet during its session was briefed on the message received by HH the Amir from the President of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov and also the message from Yugoslav President Yanz Durnofish which included an invitation to the Amir to participate in the ninth summit of non-aligned movement.

The Foreign Minister outlined the nature of the present visit to Kuwait by Gambian President Dawada Jawara for talks with the Amir on means to foster bilateral ties, Afro-Arab co-operation and other issues.

The cabinet also noted the exchange of messages between HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad and the Prime Minister of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan relating to the organisation of an Uzbek Week in Kuwait and a Kuwaiti Week in Uzbekistan to highlight the excellent relations binding Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

■ Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr Hamed Al Ghabed and Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen left for Ankara and Sofia at the order of the Amir.

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Higgins to hang, captors threaten

US outraged; Israel on alert

EIRUT, July 30, (Agencies): The Shiite Muslim captors of US arine Col William R. Higgins threatened today to hang him thin 24 hours if Israel fails to free a pro-Iranian fundamentalist ric abducted from southern Lebanon.

"This will be our first response to the stupid Israeli aggression d the flagrant American support that proves US complicity in e crime," said a statement issued by the underground Organ-tion of the Oppressed on Earth.

"We shall execute by hanging the death sentence handed down against proven spy Higgins at exactly 3 pm (1200 GMT) tomorrow if Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and his two brethren have not been freed by then," said the typewritten Arabic statement.

It was delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut two days after helicopter-borne Israeli commandoes kidnapped Obeid, 33, from his home in the south Lebanese village of Jibchit and flew him to Israel.

Obeid is reputed to be the spiritual guide of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, in South Lebanon. His cousin Ahmed Obeid and Majid Fahs, a friend, were also abducted by the Israeli team on Friday.

Obeid has denied any link to e fundamental group.

Hezbollah is widely believed to the umbrella for Shiite remist factions holding most the 17 Western hostages in banon, including the Oppres-ion Earth group.

The Lebanese group had imed responsibility for abduc-g Higgins, a decorated Viet-m veteran, near South Leban-'s port city of Tyre Feb 17, 88.

They char-d he was a y for the US ntral Intelli-nce Agency. Higgins, 44, Danville, entucky, ser-das head of a -member ob-ver group ached to the N peacekeep-g force in uth Lebanon. In a state-nt issued c 12, 1988, Oppressed Earth said it had passed the ath sentence against Higgins ier "he had made full confes-ons about his espionage tivities."

Higgins

The earlier statement said Hig-ns had been handed "to those sponsible in the Organisation the Oppressed on Earth to ecute this just verdict."

Sunday's statement said Hig-ns had co-ordinated "cons-atorial efforts by the CIA and e Zionist enemy to hit at uslim forces and their struggle ainst Israel."

The statement said Obeid's duction "will not deter us from ntinuing the struggle and resis-nce to snip out the cancer plan-d in our blessed land and chop the hand of the arrogant aded by the great satan, erica."

n Tehran today, Iran's erior Minister Ali Akbar hashemi warned that mic groups around the world take retaliatory action nst the United States and el for Obeid's abduction.

raeli troops were on alert ly following Iranian threats taliate for the abduction of d, officials said.

rael's cabinet spent nearly e hours listening to briefings he daring night-time abduc-from Lt Gen. Dan Shomron, Chief of Staff, and Defence ister Yitzhak Rabin.

ommunications Minister l Yaacobi told reporters wards that Sheikh Abdul im Obeid was captured both information vital to our nce interests and secondly to out if we can release our oners of war" in a swap for lergyman.

n Israeli official, confirmed Israel Radio report that li troops in South Lebanon ed for possible reprisal ks in response to Obeid's ction.

e Army is "following the

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Aoun has 'Frogs'

Berri in talks with Assad

BEIRUT, July 30, (AP): Heavy artillery duels raged between Syrian and Christian forces across Beirut today, setting huge fires in residential districts in the city's Muslim and Christian sectors.

The outburst came as Lebanon's ambassador to Iraq was quoted as confirming that the Christian side has acquired surface-to-surface missiles and other sophisticated weapons from Baghdad to bolster his war effort against the Syrian Army.

Police said two people were killed and seven wounded as shells and rockets rained down on the divided capital at sundown. Among the wounded were three Lebanese soldiers.

Eight other civilians were earlier reported wounded by overnight skirmishes between Syrian and Christian forces across the Green Line that bisects the city into sectarian zones.

The overall toll stands at 504 dead and 2,073 injured since the current round in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war broke out March 8, pitting Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun's 20,000 mostly Christian troops against the Syrians and their Druze Muslim allies.

The wail of ambulances and fire engines echoed through the city as black palls of smoke billowed from stricken neighbourhoods. Syrian troops manning checkpoints in West Beirut scurried for cover in basements and bomb shelters along with thousands of residents.

A ceasefire mediated by the Arab League should have been in force since May but has been ignored by the belligerents who have regularly lashed the capital with shells, rockets and heavy mortar fire.

No details of the Rabat talks which ended early today filtered out. The three ministers were expected to report to their heads of state, who were given a six-month mandate by the Arab League in May to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Hikmat Awad, Lebanon's ambassador to Baghdad, said in a statement published by the Beirut newspaper Al Anwar that "yes, Lebanon does possess Frog-7 missiles supplied by Iraq."

"Lebanon has much more sophisticated weapons which, if revealed, will make everyone forget about the Frog-7s," Awad was quoted as saying.

The report said Awad spoke when he arrived in Christian East Beirut yesterday for talks with Aoun, who heads a Christian military cabinet vying for legitimacy against a Syrian-backed Muslim government.

Awad's confirmation was the first by a Lebanese Christian official that Aoun's forces have Frog-7s, which can hit the Syrian capital of Damascus if fired from Lebanon's central mountains in the Christian enclave.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks today with Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, officials said.

View to a kill

People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers and soldiers tend a wounded colleague after fighting for Tiananmen Square China today opened on official photo exhibition in Beijing of the rioting that led to suppressions of the student democracy movement.

(Details — Page 6)

Cheats beware!

Kuwait stiffens penalty

IN a bid to curb all forms of commercial cheating in the country, penalties have been stiffened.

A new Amiri Decree published yesterday in the official gazette, Kuwait Al Youm, amended a number of articles of the commercial cheating law of 1976. Amendments related to articles 1, 2, 6 and 7 and also cancelled article 3 of the law.

The new amendment stipulates a maximum sentence of one-year's imprisonment and a fine ranging between KD500 to KD3,000 or either on any person convicted of cheating or attempting to evade his contractual obligations. The penalties apply to cheating in quantity, measurement, weight, capacity and specifications. The amendment also applies to cheating in the components of the products and where the origin of the product is a precondition.

The amendment said that the penalty will be enhanced to two-years imprisonment and a fine ranging between KD1,000 to KD5,000 or either, when the crime is committed with a fake or forged balances, measurements, stamps or any other testing instruments.

Amendment to article 2 deals with selling expired or substandard foodstuffs consumed by humans and animals. Those convicted will be liable to a maximum of two years imprisonment and a fine ranging between KD1,000 to KD3,000 or either.

The article also encompasses all persons who acquire with the intention of selling or offering for sale, materials that they realise fall within this substandard category or encourage others to use such materials through leaflets or other means of publications.

The penalty will be increased to a maximum of three years and a fine ranging from KD2,000 to KD6,000 or either if it is proved that the materials were harmful to the health of humans and animals.

The amendment stressed that the seller will not still be exempted from the above mentioned penalties even if the buyer or consumer was aware that the goods were spurious. The penalties do not apply to the buyer or the consumer, it said.

The amendment of article 7 said that the judgment provides for closing down of the shops violating article 1 and 2 for a maximum period of six months and that the goods will be confiscated in case of violating article 2.

Altar at Kimpo airport

Korean Airlines (KAL) set up an altar at a terminal building of Kimpo Airport in Seoul today to commemorate 72 people killed when a KAL DC-10 airliner they were aboard crashed at Tripoli Airport, Libya.

Bereaved relatives placed flowers and burned incense weaping at the altar on which were the photos and nameplates of the victims including 67 Koreans, one Japanese and four Libyans. The Korean victims included four crew members of the ill-fated plane

Picture shows a relative crying before a mortuary set up by KAL in Seoul. (Reuter wirephoto)

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'Turks tucked Lockerbie bomb'

LONDON, July 30, (Reuter): Turkish workers at Frankfurt airport may have planted a bomb which exploded aboard a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland last December killing 270 people, The Observer said today.

The weekly newspaper said its three-month investigation into the crash indicated there was no suicide bomber aboard the Boeing 747 and said it appeared unlikely an unsuspecting passenger had taken explosives aboard in luggage.

It quoted a US official close to the Lockerbie case as saying: "A very interesting and potentially productive side of our investigation involves members of the German Turkish groups. Our inquiries are beginning to point to the involvement of Turkish fundamentalists."

The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying five Turks either working or able to pose as airport employees were entrusted with planting the bomb.

One of them, described as a young Turkish engineer, was said to have planted a suitcase containing the bomb inside a cargo container on the London-bound aircraft, the paper said. The aircraft was headed for New York.

Bigger bite for the 'Shark'

Post grows teeth

NICOSIA, July 30, (Reuter): Amendments to the Iranian constitution approved by an overwhelming vote abolish the post of prime minister and make the president the chief executive.

The amendments end a division of power between president and prime minister which led to ministerial posts being left vacant and delays in other decisions over the past 10 years.

Under the amendments:

■ The president becomes the chief executive responsible to the people, the supreme spiritual leader, currently Ali Khamenei, and parliament.

■ He chooses vice-presidents, but ministers of his choice need to be approved by parliament.

■ He takes over direct responsibility for planning and the budget, previously handled by a ministry.

The supreme court may disqualify the president and parliament may impeach him by a two-thirds vote if one-third of deputies demand impeachment. In either case, it is the supreme leader who can finally remove the president from office.

Iran's supreme leader remains the highest figure in the Islamic republic with the authority to set policy, declare war or peace and make senior appointments in the armed forces and elsewhere.

He is commander-in-chief but no longer has to have the top Islamic rank of "marja" but can be a 'mojtahed' a — senior cleric able to interpret Islamic rulings.

The amendments allow an advisory council to be appointed by the leader to help him to make decisions and break legislative deadlocks.

■ Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrives tomorrow for an official visit, just three days after Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was elected Iran's new President, the government announced today.

The announcement did not say how long Shevardnadze would be staying. It said he was coming at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati.

■ The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) congratulated Rafsanjani today on his election as Iran's President.

But Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, in a separate message to members of the Non-Aligned Movement, warned that the Iran-Iraq war could resume unless both sides returned to the negotiating table.

Earlier Report Page 7

Jordanian draft pact ties loyalty to freedom

AMMAN, July 30, (AP): Jordanian officials have drafted principles for an organisation aimed at rallying support for King Hussein and broadening political participation, an official said today.

A small group of top officials are discussing the "national pact" principles and a new political group in the runup to Jordan's first nationwide parliamentary elections in 22 years, tentatively planned for November.

An early six-page draft of the pact obtained by the Associated Press calls for toleration of differing viewpoints, close Jordanian-Palestinian relations, improved living standards and better conditions for women.

Its 11 goals and 13 articles also repeatedly stress loyalty to Hussein and the law.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the group would be called the Organisation of National Pioneers. But it was unclear if the pioneers would be a political party.

Hussein banned all political parties in 1957 following a coup attempt. The only legal political organisation since then was the largely inactive Jordanian national union formed in 1971 and dissolved five years later.

The official said the national pioneers would emerge "shortly after Jordanian citizens reach a consensus of the pact."

He said the pact might not be made public before November and could be modified. It was not clear if Hussein had approved the current draft.

The draft pact calls for "freedom of thinking and belief and the rest of other points of view" so long as they stay within the law and do not hinder "the interest of the homeland and its community."

It also stresses Jordan's ties to Palestinians on the West Bank of the Jordan River more strongly than any document issued since July 1988, when Hussein renounced sovereignty over that territory in favour of the PLO.

It said the twin peoples were "united by joint achievements, destiny, family relations and neighbourhood, a united Arab concern to defend the Arab tradition to both banks and continuous efforts to unite both banks and lift the sufferings of our families in the occupied land."

The PLO calls for a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestine, but since last year Hussein has said even consideration of a confederation would have to wait until after a Palestinian state is formed.

Talk to ANC, says Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, July 30, (Reuter): Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela has reaffirmed that South Africa must negotiate urgently with the banned African National Congress (ANC), a major ethnic Indian organisation report today.

Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) President Cassim Saloojee reported the ANC leader as saying he was just as prepared to die for a non-racial South Africa as he was when he was jailed in 1962.

"He says to us that the crisis in our country is of such a magnitude that it needs to be resolved with great urgency," Saloojee said in a speech to the TIC annual conference.

The bone of contention

Wags ... way back

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 30, (Reuter): An ancient human tongue bone found in northern Israel shows that man could speak 60,000 years ago, a Tel Aviv University professor says.

The hyoid bone, at the base of the tongue, had previously been found in specimens 10,000 years old. It is required for human speech.

Anatomy professor Baruch Ehrensburg said an international archaeological expedition found the bone in a Neanderthal man's skeleton in a cave on Mount Carmel.

"It is six times older than previous finds," Ehrensburg told Reuters at the weekend.

"There was no discussion of capability of speech 10,000 years ago because they lived in cities, but 60,000 years ago they were living in caves," he said.

"There had been a lot of speculation that they couldn't speak as modern humans are doing."

Lanka talks stall on timetable for pullout; curfew relaxed as violence eases

NEW DELHI, July 30, (Agencies): Sri Lanka's foreign minister met with the Indian defence minister today, news reports said, but no new progress was reported on arranging a timetable for the withdrawal of Indian Peacekeeping troops from Sri Lanka.

United News of India said Ranjan Wijeratne, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, met with Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant for two and a half hours. Wijeratne was scheduled to meet with Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh later in the day, the news agency said.

The Indian troops in question were deployed to disarm Tamil militants fighting for an independent nation. India withdrew a token 600 soldiers yesterday, ending a 2-month-old diplomat standoff.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa had demanded that the last of the 45,000 Indian soldiers in his country leave by July 29, the second anniversary of an Indian-brokered peace accord the soldiers were supposed to enforce.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi refused, saying the accord had not been fully implemented. The impasse was broken Friday when the Indian government agreed to start pulling out the troops, and the two countries said they would discuss a withdrawal timetable and other issues.

Wijeratne is also expected to discuss a ceasefire between Indian troops and the dominant rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The Tamil Tigers have started independent peace talks with Premadasa's government to end their 6-year-old separatist campaign that has claimed at least 11,000 lives, including about 1,000 Indian soldiers.

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Thatcher may be losing her touch

LONDON, July 30, (Agencies): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's political touch was for years described as sure. Now, even her closest conservative colleagues are not so certain.

As parliament rose on Friday for its long summer break, the relief in Thatcher's office that politics was being put on the back burner for a few weeks was evident.

"The holiday is the agenda," an exasperated aide told reporters asking about her diary for August. "Go on holiday. We all need a break."

He was speaking in a political atmosphere soured by the aftermath of Monday's cabinet reshuffle and his words summed up one of the stickiest periods for the Conservative Party since Thatcher gained power in 1979.

At her last appearance in parliament before the break, Thatcher sat stony-faced through an extraordinary demonstration of support for the man she had just dumped as foreign secretary.

When Sir Geoffrey Howe rose to answer questions in his new post as leader of the House of Commons, Conservative members waved, cheered and roared their welcome in a blunt signal to Thatcher of their disapproval at the way he had been treated.

The end

"This is the beginning of the end for Mrs Thatcher," one said. "We are cocking a snook at her."

In the reshuffle, Britain's biggest since 1962, two ministers resigned, Thatcher fired two others and made changes to 13 of the 21 cabinet posts. It was meant to wrest the political initiative back from the resurgent Labour opposition.

Instead, it left critics mocking the reshuffle as a shambles and the government wearing the "divided" tag it used to happily pin on Labour's frequent public squabbles.

The way she handled the reshuffle, following a catastrophic performance by the Conservatives in May's European elections, revived controversy over Thatcher's domineering leadership style.

Just before parliament rose, a senior Conservative member accused her of being "dogma-driven". Nicholas Winterton warned the new cabinet to address "the great gulf which remains between government and electorate."

Thatcher's relations with Howe and Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson have been strained for months over such issues as the battle against inflation and Europe — where she is at odds with her European Community partners over monetary union, progress towards a single market and workers' rights.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd was added to that list when it became known that she offered Hurd's job behind his back as one of the options to winkle Howe out of his beloved Foreign Office.

Thatcher's standing with the voters is also in question.

When the glare of publicity was put on her record as she marked 10 years in office in May, opinion polls found that two-thirds of voters sampled said that, while they were better off under Thatcher, the quality of life in Britain was worse.

Dislike

They also revealed a popular dislike of Thatcher herself.

Coupled with dissatisfaction over changes to the Health Service, plans to sell off water supplies, rising inflation and interest rates, the introduction of a poll tax on all adults to replace property levies, the embarrassing drubbing by Labour in the Euro-elections was inevitable.

It was the first national poll defeat for the Conservatives since Thatcher became party leader and clearly influenced her reshuffle.

Despite every opinion poll for weeks showing Labour ahead of the Conservatives by around 10 percentage points, Thatcher was determined that there was nothing wrong with her policies.

She bluntly declared that they would not be changed and decreed that better presentation was the answer.

The smooth, telegenic Kenneth Baker was made Party chairman, charged with winning a record fourth term in office, and newer, younger faces were brought in — John Major, 46, to the Foreign Office, and 45-year-old Christopher Patten to environment.

■ Major was leaving London today for Paris for his first official talks abroad.

He will be attending an international conference on Cambodia.

Walking and waiting

Above, a woman dressed in traditional Kurdish dress carries a photograph of gassed Kurdish children as she marches through the East End of London on Saturday. Hundreds of people marched in support of the Kurds who are asking for political asylum in Britain. Meanwhile, the Kurdish refugees like those shown below wait for word of their fate at Harmondsworth Detention Centre near Heathrow. (Reuter wirephoto)

Andreotti wins confidence vote

'Fight organised crime'

ROME, July 30, (Reuter): Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti won a final vote of confidence for his five-party government today and appealed to Italians to fight the "murderous and corrupting" influence of organised crime.

The Chamber of Deputies (lower house) voted 371 to 200 for Italy's 49th post-war government, giving it full powers to tackle urgent problems listed by Andreotti as the mafia, preparation for the 1992 single European market, drugs and tax evasion.

The coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats resurrected by Andreotti after a two-month political crisis won a first vote of confidence in the Senate (upper house) on Thursday.

Winding up the confidence debate today, veteran Christian Democrat Andreotti spoke of the pressing need to tackle organised crime.

"The murderous and corrupting aggression of the mafia in some regions of the south and the barbarous arrogance of kidnapping gangs are the most sensational aspects of this alarm ... control of normality is being lost," he said.

Andreotti, 70 years old and prime minister for the sixth time, said there as a tendency in such emergencies to place all the blame on governments.

But he added: "I don't think anyone can feel immune from responsibility ... everyone, including public administrators, deplores the so-called absence of the state.

"But I want to remind them that they too are the state and I would also like our citizens to feel the civic impulse to line themselves up openly on the side of the law."

An official crime report published last week said the Sicilian mafia and its counterparts in Naples and Calabria had taken the place of left and right-wing guerrilla violence as the biggest threat to the security of the state.

Six Italians are currently held by kidnappers demanding large ransoms, and the campaign against the Sicilian mafia has been compromised by an internal witch-hunt for the author of anonymous letters criticising the work methods of a top investigator.

Andreotti said Italy had stamped out left-wing Red Brigades violence in which 17 public figures were killed in the late 1970s and early 1980s without recourse to special laws.

He said Italy had to prepare for creation of the single European Community market by overhauling and modernising all its institutions and practices. He said last week his cabinet would hold monthly meetings to review Italy's readiness.

The new government would crack down on tax dodgers both to bring Italy in line with other EEC countries and to reduce the country's massive state deficit.

Andreotti said nations should work closely together to beat drug trafficking.

Two killed in shootout

Italian police examine bullet-ridden cars on a motorway north of Rome after two suspected kidnappers were killed and two others wounded in a shootout with police on Saturday.

Four policemen were wounded in the shootings which occurred a day before a deadline set by kidnappers of businessman Dante Belardinelli, 65. He was abducted May 30. A ransom of 5 billion lire was demanded.

The shootings occured after police disguised as the kidnapped man's relatives tricked the suspects into thinking the ransom was being delivered. When the suspects realised they had been tricked, they opened fire. Belardinelli is still being held. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mafia scandal

Internal witch-hunt

ROME, July 30, (Reuter): A falcon, a mole and a crow have embroiled Italy's anti-Mafia establishment in a scandal seriously denting the credibility of the campaign against organised crime.

They have diverted top investigators into an internal witch-hunt, threatening to paralyse anti-Mafia operations and arousing suspicion of criminal infiltration of the Palermo Palace of Justice.

The affair has all the hallmarks of a classic spy mystery — a foiled bomb plot against a dashing Mafia investigator, anonymous letters, incriminating fingerprints, and, of course, the nicknames of the protagonists.

The "falcon" is Giovanni Falcone, Italy's most famous organised crime fighter, who last month escaped a Mafia attempt on his life after a bomb was found at his seaside villa.

Falcone believes only a high-ranking mole could have known his movements closely enough to give the assassination attempt a chance of success.

If he is right, and the mole is identified, it would be the first proof of an uncomfortable and long-held suspicion of shady links between the Mafia and state crime-fighters.

Then events took another strange turn. Anonymous letters accusing Falcone of negligence and illicit methods were sent to President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Investigators said these letters, which made damaging accusations about Falcone's handling of Mafia informers, almost certainly came from an insider, dubbed "Il Corvo" — the crow.

They said the typeface on the letters matched the sort of typewriters used in the Palermo Palace of Justice. Investigators said they also had fingerprint evidence.

Italian police chief Vincenzo Parisi said he believed the scandal was inspired by the Mafia and that its architects wanted to paralyse investigations into crime bosses, corruption and money laundering.

"Whoever wrote the letters is certainly someone working for the state who should be fighting against the Mafia," said Luciano Violante, deputy head of the parliamentary anti-Mafia commission. "We might finally discover a crucial link in the relationship between the Mafia and state bodies."

The affair, which had already whetted the Italian media's appetite for conspiracy theories, was fanned into a full-blown scandal when the weekly magazine Epoca cited secret service sources identifying the "crow" as one of Falcone's senior judicial colleagues.

The named magistrate furiously denied the allegation saying he had been framed, although he shared some of the misgivings about Falcone's work methods expressed in the letters.

Italy's anti-Mafia high commissioner Domenico Sica came under attack for his management of the preliminary secret service investigation. A string of top policemen and magistrates were called before two separate judicial hearings in Rome and Palermo.

Parliament's anti-Mafia commission has summoned Prime Minister Andreotti and Italy's justice and interior ministers to report on the affair.

Investigators are treating the Falcone bomb plot and the letters as separate cases for the moment and have brought no formal charges.

Labour to cut union's power

Plans for a moderate party

LONDON, July 30, (UPI): The leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, Neil Kinnock, said today he was considering limiting the traditional power of the country's trade unions in dictating party's policy.

In an interview with the Sunday Times in which he was only occasionally directly quoted, Kinnock, the 47-year-old son of a Welsh miner, indicated that he planned to create a more moderate party for the 1990's along the lines of the mainstream socialist parties in other European Economic Community nations.

The Labour Party, dominated and financed by the nation's trade unions, was swept from power in 1979 in a wave of crippling strikes that brought Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party into office.

"Trade unions could be stripped of their power to dictate Labour's policies in the next stage of Neil Kinnock's plan to create a more moderate party of government for the 1990s," the Sunday Times said.

With Labour currently ahead of the Conservatives in opinion polls, the Sunday Times said the plan could mean that the unions may lose half their block voters at the party's annual policy making conferences where they currently have 90 per cent of the vote.

Labour Members of Parliament do not have votes at the party conferences, and the paper quoted Kinnock as saying the idea of limiting the union and giving Labour lawmakers a block of votes was "certainly among the options" for reform of the party.

But the report, thin on details of the plan, added: "Kinnock stressed that he wanted a genuine consultation process inside his party before final proposals were put to next year's party conference."

"Kinnock plans further moves to show that Labour has moved from the left-wing fringes into the mainstream of European socialism," it said.

On other issues, Kinnock branded the new cabinet Thatcher formed last week as a "lame-duck" government.

Thatcher named John Major, 46, as foreign secretary, making the incumbent, Geoffrey Howe, deputy prime minister and party leader in parliament.

Survivors fly back to Seoul

SEOUL, July 30, (Reuter): More than 100 survivors of Thursday's Korean Air DC-10 crash in Libya, in which 72 passengers and crew died, arrived back in South Korea late today.

Korean Air (KAL) officials said all 105 on the emergency flight from Tripoli, including about 40 stretcher cases, were being taken directly to hospitals in the capital.

Another 17 South Korean survivors were still in Libya, most too ill to travel, the officials said. Pilot Kim Ho-Jun, though not gravely hurt, remained behind to help with the official enquiry into the accident.

Of 10 non-Koreans on board, all Libyans or Japanese, five survived.

South Korean officials have ruled out sabotage as a cause of the accident. Investigators were said to be concentrating on the possibilities of either pilot error or technical failure, either aboard the plane or in the airport air control systems.

A Libyan official in Tripoli told Reuters yesterday that both the DC-10's flight recorders had been found but that it would take time to analyse their data.

Confusion over the exact number aboard the ill-fated plane continued. KAL officials tonight repeated Seoul's version that there were 199 including 18 crew aboard, and that 72 of them died.

Libyan authorities meanwhile said the airliner was carrying 197, and that 71 aboard were killed together with seven Libyans on the ground when the giant plane careered through houses near the airport "like a bulldozer."

The survivors flew back to Seoul today aboard one of two special KAL Boeings sent to the Libyan capital. They were accompanied by about 39 airline officials and medical staff.

2,000 people flee from fire

FRESNO, Calif., July 30, (Reuter): Thousands of firefighters battled a blaze that caused more than 2,000 people to flee their homes in the parched central California mountains yesterday.

Local officials said the fire burned 6,500 acres (2,600 hectares) and remained out of control in the Sierra Nevada foothills some 45 miles (70 kms) northeast of Fresno.

Elsewhere in the West, dozens of small fires burned out of control in Idaho and warnings of high fire danger were issued on the dry eastern slopes fo the cascade mountains in Oregon.

Bingo Day 12

17 55 30 84

Most Americans want patrols

Survey on US crimes

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP): Nine out of 10 Americans think drugs are a chief or important cause of crime and 81 per cent favour using the National Guard to patrol drug-infested neighbourhoods, according to a survey released yesterday.

New York City ranked highest in a "fear index" of the poll, followed by Miami, Los Angeles and Washington.

The survey, sponsored by the Lexis Computer Legal Research Service and the National Law Journal, showed that 77 per cent want juveniles treated as adults and 74 per cent favour the death penalty for some murderers.

Asked to choose the "chief" or "important" causes of crime, 91 per cent said drugs; 87 per cent said the failure of the criminal justice system and 81 per cent cited a decline in moral and ethical values.

But 58 per cent would oppose a new tax dedicated to fighting crime and only 41 per cent favour it, the survey said.

Those polled were asked to score the perceived safety of American cities, from one (very safe) to 10 (very dangerous).

The worst eight: New York, 7.65, Miami, 7.23, Los Angeles, 6.95, Washington, 6.78, Chicago, 6.56, Detroit, 6.38, Atlanta, 4.81, and Boston, 4.46.

Racism is a problem in the criminal justice system, according to 78 per cent of the whites and 93 per cent of the blacks surveyed. Forty-five per cent blamed police for the problems, while 18 per cent blamed prosecutors and 14 per cent blamed judges.

Among the other findings:

— 90 per cent said the legal system makes it too easy for criminals to delay trial or bargain for a lesser penalty.

— 87 per cent said the justice system doesn't adequately punish criminals.

— 68 per cent think violent television programmes encourage crime and 63 per cent favour laws to restrict violence on TV.

— 62 per cent favour the death penalty for major drug dealers.

Forty per cent of those surveyed said they owned a gun. Of those, 36 per cent said they used them for sport, 16 per cent for protection and 44 per cent for both purposes.

Fifty-eight per cent, however, believed gun control laws should be strengthened.

The poll of 1,000 people was conducted July 7-9 by Penn and Schoen Associates. The margin of error, depending on the question, varies from plus or minus 3.1 percentage points to 4.4 points.

■ Eleven prisoners were executed in the United States last year, less than half the number of inmates put to death the previous year, according to a Justice Department report.

Of the nation's death-row inmates last year, 1,238 — or 58.3 per cent — were white and 853 — 40.2 per cent — were black. The national population is just 12 per cent black.

Colour laser copying equipment becomes a tool for counterfeiters

HUNTINGTON, West Virginia, July 30, (AP): Counterfeiting used to be a skilled craft, but one recent case illustrates the law enforcement agent's greatest fear: that new photocopy technology makes it possible for just about anyone to produce fake money.

John P. McCoy, who was convicted last week in an operation that made $800,000 worth of US and Canadian currency, did it with a high-tech Canon colour laser copier.

It was one of the first, if not the first case of the latest in laser copying equipment being used to counterfeit money, said Hunter Howerton, a secret service agent in Charleston.

"At one time, counterfeiting was very specialised. It was like an art," Howerton said. "Printing used to be a very respected tradition. ...

"Now, all you have to be able to do is press a button."

McCoy's 20-, 50- and 100-dollar bills looked fine on first inspection, but experts can easily distinguish a photocopied bill.

Tiny stars on the treasury seal came out as circles, and the backgrounds behind portraits of US presidents were washed out instead of salt-and-peppered, said secret service agent Art Dalton. The paper was different, too, missing the red and blue fibres woven into real bills.

Under a microscope, the difference is obvious to an expert. Letters printed with real plates are raised from the paper's surface and sharp-edged, while photocopied letters are flat and fuzzy at the edges.

"They're good, but they're not that good," said Alton, who heads the Charleston secret service office.

Canon introduced its first colour copier in the 1970s and advanced it with the use of lasers in 1987. The copiers are sold mostly to print shops and advertising agencies whose customers demand colour copies of everything from photos and art work to documents.

McCoy got his by talking the owner of a truck parts store into buying him one for $35,000.

Manufacturers worry that their copiers coud be put to illegal use, but there is little they can do but warn customers and suggest that they control access to the most sophisticated machines, said Hajime Hirai, a spokesman for Canon Inc.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cocaine seized

GUATEMALA, July 30, (UPI): Two US citizens sailing from Colombia to Los Angeles with 788 kilogrammes, nearly a ton, of cocaine were arrested yesterday in international waters off the Guatemalan Pacific coast, police said.

Sheriff Guillermo Mollindo said the two were arrested in a sailboat off the port of San Jose, 62 miles (100 km) south of Guatemala City.

"It was a joint operation between the Guatemalan Security Forces and the DEA (US Drug Enforcement Administration)," Mollindo said. "The sailboat, flying a US flag, was detained in international waters."

Police seized 788 kilogrammes of 100 per cent-pure cocaine bagged in plastic sacks. Mollindo said the cocaine was worth approximately $157 million, but the street value of 788 kilogrammes in the United States would be about half that.

Court date set

TILLAMOOK, Oregon, July 30, (UPI): A Soviet sailor who jumped ship in Portland, Oregon, is scheduled to enter a plea Aug 21 to charges of criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

The date was set after Tillamook County Circuit Judge Delbert Meyer dismissed mental competency proceedings Friday for Alexander Ptitsyn, 20, who jumped from a Soviet fishing boat June 28 in the Willamentte River to seek asylum in the United States.

Ptitsyn was sent to Dammasch State Hospital in Wilsonville three days later after he ran naked through the streets of Rockaway in Tillamook County, broke windows and damaged electronic equipment.

Evacuations urged

MOSCOW, July 30, (AP): Scientists say another 106,000 people should be evacuated due to contamination from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster — nearly ten times the number of relocations the government recommends, Tass said yesterday.

Experts and lawmakers told the Byelorussian legislature that in the long run, the mass relocations would be cheaper than bringing conditions up to standard in the contaminated area.

Miners trapped

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 30, (UPI): A small reservoir apparently burst and flooded a coal mine last night, trapping 21 miners below ground, and authorities said there was little chance any of them survived, a news report said.

The report said four miners escaped when the reservoir burst and flooded the mine in the city of Curanilahue, 355 miles (570 km) south of Santiago near the city of Concepcion.

Chileans to vote

SANTIAGO, Chile, July 30, (AP): Chileans vote today on political reforms supported by both the military government and its military foes — but they apparently aren't excited about it.

Voting is mandatory, but government officials and opposition leaders feared many of the 7.6 million registered voters would stay home.

Constitutional experts and political leaders had said public apathy during the campaign stemmed from the widespread belief the proposed changes would be approved even with a small turnout.

Nicaraguans talk

MANAGUA, July 30, (Reuter): Nicaraguan opposition leaders agreed yesterday to open talks next Thursday with the left-wing Sandinista government to discuss conditions for free and fair general elections in February.

The government on Friday night proposed the dialogue with delegates of each of the 21 legally-registered political parties including the opposition National Union, the main opposition alliance made up of 14 parties.

110 rebels die

LIMA, July 30, (Reuter): Peruvian troops dealt a major blow to a Maoist rebel Army last week, killing 110 guerrillas in three battles in the country's most important cocaine producing region, the armed forces said.

Army and police also wounded dozens of guerrillas and captured guns and explosives in the fighting in the Upper Huallaga River Valley on Thursday and Friday, said a military statement issued yesterday.

At least eight police and soldiers were killed and 12 wounded, it added.

200 killed

LISBON, Portugal, July 30, (AP): An Angolan military official has claimed that ceasefire violations by US-backed UNITA rebels have killed over 200 people since a truce in Angola's 14-year civil war was agreed June 22, the Angolan State News Agency, ANGOP, reported yesterday.

But reports in the Portuguese press from the Angolan capital of Luanda cited official Angolan sources as saying peace talks between the government and UNITA were expected to resume on schedule tomorrow in N'sele, Zaire.

The ANGOP report, monitored in Lisbon from Luanda, cited Deputy Armed Forces Chief Roberto Real Monteiro as saying the worst violation was the July 23 downing of a military airplane by a UNITA missile, causing the death of 42 people.

Cannabis cultivation

SAN PROCOPIO, Italy, July 30, (UPI): Police found some 11,000 cannabis plants being cultivated on state property near this Calabrian Hill town yesterday.

Police said some of the cannabis (Indian hemp) plants were 10 feet (3 metres) in height. They said when processed and sold to cannabis addicts the 11,000 plants would have been worth around $370,000.

Investigators were trying to discover who planted the illegal crop.

)on Juan informant raises questions about drug war tactics

AMI, July 30, (Reuter): Meet Mario tell, the Don Juan of drug infor- ts in the United States.

Vith dashing good looks and a sleek sports car, he has swept lonely nen off their feet and enticed them et up cocaine deals that led to their est, defence lawyers say.

t least eight women who fell victim Portell's charms have been arrested he Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Florida and New Jersey.

Portell, a handsome undercover informant, isn't in it for romance. The 34-year-old Cuban emigre has collected more than $80,000 in informant fees over the past two years for turning his lovers in, according to his own testimony during an ex-girlfriend's trial.

Miriam Guzman, a 39-year-old beauty shop owner, said she arranged a seven-kilogramme (15 pound) drug buy at Portell's urging because she fell in love and was afraid of losing him.

Defence lawyers contend that Portell's methods amount to illegal entrapment, and even law-enforcement agencies who used him acknowledge that sex and undercover drug operations do not mix.

Portell's story is one of a series of cases that have opened a window on the shadowy world of informants and have shed light on the pitfalls law officers face in their struggle to come up with information on the drug trade.

Drug agents, police and prosecutors rely heavily on informants to help them seize drug shipments, make arrests and win convictions.

Pat O'Brien, head of the US Customs Service Office in Miami, estimates that informants are involved in more than 75 per cent of his agents' cases.

Money is the main motivation. One informant recently collected a $400,000 fee in a single case, O'Brien said.

Most are shady characters who live on the edge of the law, agents say. Some of the best are smugglers who have 'flipped' and give their co-operation in hopes of winning leniency or even immunity from prosecution for past crimes.

Law-enforcement officials acknowledge they are uneasy about some of their recruits, but they insist that well-connected, highly paid informants are the only way to fight the multi-billion dollar Colombian drug cartels.

Defence lawyers for accused drug traffickers contend that informants who profit from setting up undercover drug deals are corrupting the legal system by trading information for money.

urf's up

freds of multi-coloured hot-air balloons took off Saturday in the Lorraine region of eastern France in an aerial celebration of the bicentenary French Revolution. Seven and hundred eighty-nine balloons from 25 countries are participating in what is being billed as the world's largest ballooning event. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

EYARD HAVEN, Massachusetts: Acclaimed rt violinist Eugene Fodor was behind bars on day on drug, weapons and burglary charges a break-in at a Martha's Vineyard Motel, said.

te and local police were summoned to the ard harbour motel after a chambermaid Fodor in a room that was listed as unoc- d and notified the manager, authorities said.

dor, 39, was carrying 20 grammes of cocaine, a amount of heroin, a dagger, a hypodermic e and some pills when he was arrested at 11.30 m Friday, police said.

isbury police Sgt Justin Welch said the Denver- Fodor was charged with burglary, possession cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute, ession of a deadly weapon and possession of a ge. (UPI)

* * *

EHAMMER, Norway: Highway workers posted a road sign to warn motorists of a ting hazard — ghosts crossing.

e red-and-white triangular sign, illustrated a spectre, warns drivers of a supernatural d some workers claim exists along a southern ay secondary road, near a highway depart- vacation cabin.

ome of our people have experienced so many ge things at the cabin that they swear there are s in the area," state highway department esman Geir Hasle told the Norwegian news cy NTB.

e cabin, formerly used by highway watchmen, nted to be the site of numerous unexplained ents.

isle said the sign, which meets national stan- s, was made by the highway office to mark the anniversary of the Geiranger highway. (AP)

* * *

N LAKE, New York: John Sebastian and ry Joe McDonald are among the musicians have signed up to perform at a Woodstock ion concert, the promoter says.

e concert is planned for Aug 15-17, at the rial Resort, about seven miles (11 kilometres) the site of Max Yasgur's farm, where 400,000 red for rock music's main event 20 years ago.

hers who have agreed to join the reunion ert are Ravi Shankar and Johnny Winter, said e Taylor, vice-president of the resort. (AP)

* * *

ANGELES: The founding member of The modores says he has been fired from the m-and-blues band for refusing to perform the group at a planned South African concert.

llen Williams told a news conference that he lismissed after 20 years with The Commodores wing a vote by the other band members earlier month.

illiams refused to accompany the band to h Africa and made his decision public. After a torm of criticism, the band reluctantly agreed ncel its trip.

e keyboardist said he was offered $60,000 to in South Africa. (AP)

For intimate inmates

Condom tossing

LONDON, July 30, (Reuter): Campaigners catapulted condoms over the wall of a London prison yesterday to promote safe sex amongst inmates.

The group called "Act Up" was protesting against the British government's refusal to distribute condoms and hypodermic needles in jails to try to prevent AIDS.

Outside Pentionville Prison, in north London, Maureen Oliver of Act Up said: "The government does not deny that unprotected sex and the sharing of needles takes place in prisons.

"But for them to refuse to provide condoms and needles is hypocritical and does nothing to help their multi-million pound (dollar) campaign against AIDS."

Some 20 protesters fired 50 condoms over the wall before police moved in saying the jail was private property.

ZUNI, Virginia: Some 1,500 nudists sporting only watches and hats are gathering this weekend at Virginia's only developed nudist resort to discuss ways to raise their public image.

The sun worshippers are taking part the annual conference of the American Sunbathing Association's eastern region at White Tail park in rural Southampton County, Virginia.

"It's very relaxed and friendly," said Stella Seifert, who moved to Norfolk in 1983 with her husband Robert, a retired Navy officer from Philadelphia. "The people have no hang-ups. Nobody worries about roly-polies above their swimming suits."

Nudists from 17 states are playing volleyball, dancing, electing officers and taking care of business at the camp, which has become the fastest growing nudist club in the nation. It now boasts 500 members since opening in 1985. (UPI)

* * *

RENTON, Washington: The pilot who eased a crippled DC-10 to a crash landing in which more than half of those aboard survived was honoured on Saturday as Washington State Little League Volunteer of The Year.

A plaque was presented to United Airlines Capt. Al C. Haynes by Jim Chavez, State District 10 administrator for the Youth Baseball Organisation, in a brief ceremony before the Big League state championship game between Fort Vancouver and the host team in this Seattle suburb.

Relatives expressed surprise as Haynes, 57, trotted onto the field at Liberty Park.

"I haven't seen him move like that for a little while," said Marlene Haynes, his daughter-in-law. "He'll probably be stiff for a week."

"Getting out to the ballpark has helped him a lot," said her husband, Anthony Haynes, the pilot's older son. (AP)

BRISBANE, Australia: A woman donated part of her liver to her dying son in what Australian doctors Sunday called the first-ever transplant of its kind.

The doctors said if the operation is a success it could lead the way to live donor liver transplants.

The unidentified mother, 29, was recovering Sunday in a Brisbane hospital after donating a third of her liver to her 17-month-old son.

Hospital authorities Sunday said both mother and son were doing fine.

The toddler was dying because he was born without bile ducts — the most common reason for a liver transplant in children.

The boy is still in intensive care, but surgeons are satisfied with his progress, hospital sources said.

* * *

LOS ANGELES: Actress Valerie Harper was among more than 50 celebrities backing a planned march on Washington to demand that the government put up more money for the homeless.

"I think America's had it," she told a news conference in Los Angeles. "There is a deep need and desire that homelessness end, and that people have houses or apartments that they can afford."

Among those joining Miss Harper in announcing the Oct 7 march were actors Jon Voight, Ally Sheedy, Jean Stapleton and Harry Dean Stanton and musician Quincy Jones. The marchers will demand restoration of federal funding for affordable housing that they say was lost during the eight years of President Ronald Reagan's administration. (AP)

* * *

STOCKHOLM, Sweden: Managers of Bjorn Borg's business operations in Sweden have asked bankruptcy officials to go over the company's books in an effort to stave off liquidation.

The five-time Wimbledon champion said he would close down the Scandinavian part of his fashion empire after the partners rejected his offer to clear up the company's debts and sell shares to employees.

Managing director Greger Larsson told a news conference that he and board member Gunnar Strom "neither can nor want to" put 3 million kronor ($460,000) into Bjorn Borg Invest AB, which controls Borg's clothing enterprises in Sweden. (AP)

* * *

SOUTH BEND, Indiana: Bill Anzelc is getting jumpier every day he trains for his attempt to break a world record — but that's to be expected on a pogo stick.

The 18-year-old South Bend resident hopes to hop through the 11.53-mile (18.49 km) distance record listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anzelc said he had looked through the book for a record he could try to break.

"When I was 9 or 10, I did like 700 jumps on a pogo stick, so I figured I could beat the record," he said.

Anzelc, a 1989 graduate of St Joseph's High School, said he also hoped his Aug 12 effort would raise $5,000 for the Centre for the Homeless in South Bend. (UPI)

Visitors to Kenya warned

WASHINGTON, July 30, (UPI): The State Department has issued a travel advisory for American citizens visiting Kenya following the killing this week of a Connecticut woman on a safari tour.

The department issued its warning late Friday, advising tourists to take a number of precautions to avoid attacks such as the one that resulted in the death Thursday of Marie Esther Ferraro of Bethany, Connecticut.

Ferraro was killed and Allen Sullivan of Fairfield, Connecticut, was slightly wounded, while on a safari tour with a group of 27 other American tourists in Tsavo West Park in southern Kenya, State Department spokeswoman Sandra McCarty said.

Another spokeswoman said the travel advisory was "partially" related to the incident Thursday but noted a number of attacks on tourists had been reported, not only on Americans.

"There have been a few instances of attacks on tourists along the coast south of Mombasa and in remote areas of the country including some national parks," the State Department said in its advisory.

"Most of these attacks, some of which have resulted in deaths of tourists, have been attributed to heavily armed wildlife poachers," the department said. "When visiting game parks, Americans are encouraged to travel in groups with a guide from a reputable safari firm or a game ranger.

"Travellers should consult a knowledgeable physician about the need to take precautions against chloroquine-resistant malaria and other diseases prevalent in East Africa," the advisory said.

The department, which encouraged visitors to register with the US embassy upon arrival in Kenya, also warned Americans visiting Nairobi to beware of pickpockets and suggested leaving valuables and passports in a hotel safe.

Lap of luxury

Drug lords at home in prison

MEXICO CITY, July 30: (Agencies): How do you make yourself at home in prison? Seventeen drug lords and their lieutenants used mahogany furniture, satin pillows, ornamental plants, porcelain figurines and a private sauna, the attorney general's office says.

One even set up a cottage industry in his suite of cells in Ciudad Juarez, employing other inmates to make clothing for export, the office said.

Photographs of Gilberto Ontiveros Lucero's "bedroom" in Mexico City newspapers yesterday showed a double bed with a thick cover and piles of pillows, elaborate mirrors and a wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling curtain.

An investigation into prison corruption began with the disclosure earlier this month that two of Mexico's biggest drug traffickers were living in opulent quarters in a Mexico City prison.

While Ontiveros was branching out into Haberdashery, other drug lords continued to run their narcotics businesses, using cellular telephones to call the United States and Colombia, the attorney general's office said.

A total of 14 cellular telephones have been confiscated, the office said Friday when it released an inventory.

The inventory listed microwave ovens, video cassette players, plants, refrigerators, an exercise bicycle, sauna baths, porcelain figurines, dining room furniture, bedroom furniture, office furniture and a jewel-encrusted Rolex watch.

Tear-gas, pistols, knives, scanners to monitor police radio traffic, cocaine and marijuana also were found, the statement said.

The drug lords, men who go by nicknames like The Beast and the Quiet One, are now making do with the more spartan surrounding of the high-security unit at the southern prison in Mexico City.

They were transferred on July 21 from prisons in Ciudad Juarez, Nuevo Laredo and Tijuana in a special operation by federal agents.

The attorney general's office also has begun an investigation into prison officials. It said the luxury in which the drug barons were allowed to live showed the degree of their "economic power and the internal control based on terror."

Earlier this month the director of prisons admitted that Rafael Caro Quintero, accused of masterminding the 1985 torture-slaying of US Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena Salazar, was living with his uncle and fellow drug lord in a space designed for 250 inmates.

Walls had been knocked out to enlarge the cells, which were then outfitted with marble baths, a pool table, air conditioning, guest quarters and wardrobes crammed with dozens of silk shirts.

While inspecting the Nuevo Laredo State Prison, across the US-Mexican border from Laredo, Texas, police discovered the cell of convicted drug trafficker Merced Monge Cisneros and six other inmates was equipped with three telephones and air conditioning.

US star won't be charged

ATLANTA, July 30, (AP): American actor Bob Lowe will do two years' community service to avoid prosecution on charges that he videotaped a young girl performing a sex act at a hotel during a national political convention, a prosecutor said.

Lowe had faced a possible criminal charge of sexual exploitation of a minor, a charge that carries a maximum 20 years in prison and a $100,000 fine, District Attorney Lewis R. Slaton said yesterday.

Lowe, 25, and his father met with Slaton Friday, almost a year after he allegedly taped the sex scene between Jan Parsons, who was 16 at the time, and a female companion at a downtown hotel room during the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

"I needed to talk to him to size him up to see if he was OK for the programme," Slaton said. "I felt the young man fit in, but I had to be sure of his attitude."

A telephone call to Lowe's agent in Los Angeles late yesterday was not immediately returned.

The agreement was part of the state's pretrial intervention programme, "a hybrid alternative" to prosecution for young, non-violent first offenders, Slaton said. Lowe is to work with disadvantaged youths in Los Angeles area schools.

Lowe remains the subject of a civil lawsuit brought by Miss Parsons' mother, Lena Arlene Wilson, who claims Lowe seduced her daughter.

Terms of the programme will be worked out in the next few weeks, Slaton said. He declined to discuss other details of the case.

Lowe, star of such films as "About Last Night ..." "St. Elmo's Fire" and "Oxford Blues,' should be finished with the criminal portion of the case, his Atlanta attorney, Edgar Neely III, said yesterday.

"That's the end of it," Neely said. "I'm sure Rob is glad to get it behind him so he can concentrate on other things."

Arsenic and old lace

Nine poisoned

BURLINGTON, North Carolina, July 30, (UPI): A woman suspected of poisoning nine people, including husbands, boyfriends, a mother-in-law and her father, is a loving person who has done nothing wrong, her lawyer says.

Blanche Moore, 56, is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and additional charges appear likely as the State Bureau of Investigation expands its probe into the deaths of several of the woman's friends and relatives.

Not since Madame Bovary committed suicide in Gustav Flaubert's novel of the same name has arsenic had as much notoriety as in recent weeks in North Carolina, where eight of nine people Moore allegedly poisoned have died. The intense publicity worries Mitchell McEntire, Moore's attorney.

"The carnival type atmosphere is of concern to me, given the responsibility of defending her and protecting her right to a fair trial," he said. "That possibility is getting rather remote. The public attention, the media attention is causing legitimate concern."

"She's determined and prepared to overcome it," McEntire said. "She's taking it with a good deal of bravery and she's determined to hold up under this. She's a bit frail and I'm concerned the stress of this has been hard on her — it's simply been a nightmare."

Last Tuesday, Moore was charged with two counts of first-degree murder and one count of assault with intent to kill. But she is suspected of poisoning several other people, including her father.

Quarrels 'divide Yugoslav party'

BELGRADE, July 30, (Reuter): A top Yugoslav official said today nationalist disputes had permeated the ruling communist party from its leadership to the grass roots.

"Inter-ethnic divisions and quarrels are permeating the ... party," Politburo member Ivica Racan told a central committee plenary session on inter-ethnic relations.

"First they grip (the party's) leadership, then its organisations and members."

Yugoslav state and party leaders have been calling for an end to nationalist conflicts which have seriously upset relations in this multi-ethnic federation of 23 million people.

Yugoslavia comprises eight republics and provinces, at least 24 nationalities and ethnic groups, half a dozen religions, four major languages and two alphabets, Latin and Cyrilic.

Worsening relations between Yugoslavia's two largest and most powerful republics, Serbia and Croatia, have caused clashes between Serbs and Croats over the past two weeks.

Concern

Last week, shots were fired when Croatian youths attacked a group of Serbian schoolchildren and their teachers holidaying on the Adriatic coast.

"Nationalism ... gives rise to concern and fear of inter-ethnic confrontations and their possibly tragic dimensions," Racan, a Croat, said.

"On the other hand, among those who are nationally impassioned, it strengthens false hopes and the illusion that it is the way to overcome existing problems."

Yugoslavia was hit by serious ethnic disturbances earlier this year, including Albanian riots in Kosovo province where 25 people were killed and scores wounded.

Yugoslavia's most economically-developed republic, Slovenia, on Thursday moved closer to leaving the Yugoslav federation with the adoption of a draft constitution that includes the right to secede.

A mass Serbian rally this month in Croatia highlighted historical rivalry between Serbia and Croatia and prompted Croatia to accuse Serbia of stirring up nationalist divisions.

Tens of thousands of Serbs flocked to the Croatian town of Knin, 100 km (60 miles) north of split on July 9, to protest against what they called the cultural assimilation of the Serbian minority in Croatia.

Croatian authorities responded by jailing 14 prominent Serbian activists in Knin and fining at least 14 others, sparking resentment and criticism in Serbia.

Frelimo ditches Marxism

MAPUTO, July 30, (Reuter): Mozambique's ruling Frelimo Party today ditched Marxism, declared support for a mixed economy and backed moves to end a 10-year rebel insurgency through negotiation.

The new programme and statutes approved by Frelimo's Party Congress after a marathon all-night session marked a turning point in the ideological direction of the left-wing party which has ruled Mozambique since independence from Portugal in 1975.

The congress, ending a week of debate, also endorsed moves by President Joaquim Chissano to talk peace with right-wing Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) rebels.

All mention of Marxism-Leninism, the official Party ideology adopted in 1977, was dropped in favour of a more moderate, general commitment to socialism.

The party, which has just over 200,000 members, is seeking to become more representative of Mozambique's 15 million people, more than 60 per cent of whom are illiterate peasants.

Western diplomats said the ideological shift reflected the growing pragmatism of Chissano's one-party government, which with Western support is struggling to extricate the country from war and economic collapse.

The party's chief ideologue Jorge Rebelo said the message received from the people was that the party had "to operate in the context of reality, not in a world of ideals."

The congress declared support for a tough economic recovery plan launched in 1987 and backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Yeltsin, Sakharov to lead new group

Gorbachev urged for genuine reform

MOSCOW, July 30, (Reuter): Radical members of the new Soviet parliament elected five chairmen today, including Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin and human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, to lead their new group pressing for faster reform.

Yeltsin came top of the poll of 13 candidates to fill five seats at the head of the 300-strong group, the first break in nearly seven decades of officially-imposed unity. He collected 144 votes, 92 per cent of those taking part in the ballot.

The group, holding its founding meeting in Moscow, decided he would hold the post of "prime chairman" for the first year.

Maverick communist official Boris Yeltsin (left) discusses with liberal Soviet economist Gavrill Popov (right) in Moscow today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Historian Yuri Afanasyev, who came second in the vote, will take over the top job next year.

Afanasyev, in a speech on the meeting's opening day today, urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to come off the fence and decide whether to lead the country into genuine reform.

Also elected chairmen, in order, were economist Gavriil Popov, Estonian academician Viktor Palm and Sakharov, the physicist who spent nearly seven years in exile for his outspoken stands on human rights.

After two days of discussions, the group decided against electing a single chairman, opting instead for the rotating system.

The group's members were also choosing from among 60 candidates for a 25-member co-ordinating committee.

Yeltsin, the most prominent member of the group, was removed from the Communist Party's ruling Politburo last year after criticising the pace of Gorbachev's "perestroika" programme of economic and political reform.

But his calls for rapid change and an end to privilege secured him a place in parliament after elections in March, the country's first multi-candidate ballot.

Sakharov, 1975 winner of the Nobel Peace prize, won a seat in the parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, after initially being shut out of a list from the Academy of Sciences.

In parliament, he called for sweeping constitutional changes to lessen the role of the Communist Party and enhance the power of elected bodies.

He also repeated allegations of Soviet atrocities in the country's nine-year involvement in Afghanistan, prompting outrage from veterans and conservative parliamentarians.

The left Socialist Revolutionaries was the last opposition party to survive the Bolshevik purges following the 1917 revolution. It was suppressed in 1922.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has ordered many reforms since coming to power in 1985 but has opposed any alternatives to the Communist Party.

Leaders of the new organisation said enough contributions have been received to begin publishing a newspaper.

Mikhail Bocharov, a deputy from suburban Moscow, said the newspaper — the People's Deputy — will start with a circulation of 300,000 and sell for about 80 cents a copy.

That is more than 18 times the cost of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda but considerably less than a Soviet fashion magazine.

Historian Yuri Afanasiev, a deputy from Moscow, said the group will meet today and hopes to reach agreement on a platform.

Tass predicted Yeltsin would be elected leader but Afanasiev indicated the group is leaning toward a governing council with several deputies.

The organisation is still a small minority in the 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet Parliament. Nikolai Medvedev, a deputy from Lithuania, said most of his colleagues from the three Baltic republics had left Moscow for the weekend but when they returned they could add up to 140 members to the group.

It is not clear how many of the opposition deputies are also members of the smaller legislative branch of the Congress called the Supreme Soviet.

The group could have its most immediate effect on the political process by proposing laws. The Supreme Soviet gained that power this spring but so far it has considered only proposals put forth by the Kremlin leadership.

Moscow Deputy Sergei Stankevich, writing in the first issue of the People's Deputy said that fears instilled by years of political tyranny made people shy away from an open opposition.

Popov opened yesterday's meeting in the crowded auditorium of the Soviet Filmmakers' Union with a call to bring reform through legal changes instead of what he called the government's "spontaneous approach," to crises.

Latvia claims right to veto

MOSCOW, July 30, (AP): Latvia joined its two sister Baltic republics in declaring sovereign rights, including the power to veto Soviet laws, the Soviet news agency Tass reported yesterday.

The Latvian parliament's action claims that "laws of the USSR will go into effect on the territory of Latvia only after their ratification by the highest organ of government in the republic," Tass said.

The declaration was the latest development in the move among the Baltic republics — Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia — to achieve substantial independence from Moscow.

On Thursday, the national Supreme Soviet approved the first reading of two resolutions that would give the republics economic independence by Jan 1.

Estonia last November shocked the Kremlin by declaring sovereignty. The presidium of the Supreme Soviet declared the move unconstitutional.

But Estonia pressed forward gingerly, insisting that the Soviet constitution was itself contradictory on the issue.

The republic started by asserting its independence on popular causes like environmental protection, but no direct confrontation has occurred yet on the question of sovereignty.

Lithuania followed Estonia's lead this summer, after the independence-minded Sajudis reform group demonstrated the depth of its popular support by sweeping the vast majority of the republic's seats in the country's first contested elections for parliament.

Latvia is the most controversial case to date, since ethnic Latvians are a minority of the republic's population, and some ethnic Russian residents objected to any change in its relation to the Soviet Union.

Tass reported that the Latvian resolution is couched in terms of criticising former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"For decades, the regime of Stalinism and the dictatorship bound the openness of the republic and deformed national relations.

Guns galore

Firearms are inspected by Internal Affairs officers Lt. Surovtsev and Major Anchabadze (left) today. Each day, dozens of arms are being confiscated by the military or handed in by the people of Georgia. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ritual killings spark protest

Classes boycotted

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, July 30, (AP): Thousands of students accusing authorities of repression and covering up ritual murders boycotted classes Friday in the tiny black homeland of Venda.

The protests have prompted the homeland legislature to consider imposing a state of emergency, clouding preparations for festivities in September to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Venda's "independence" from South Africa.

At the University of Venda, classes for 4,000 students have been halted since Wednesday. Boycotts began earlier at some primary and secondary schools.

Venda, about two-thirds the size of Lebanon, is located in the northeast corner of South Africa and has about 500,000 citizens, many of them migrant labourers who work far from the territory. It is one of four tribal homelands designated as independent by South Africa but not recognised abroad.

According to reports Friday in two anti-apartheid newspapers, the protests have been triggered in part by three unsolved killings within the past two weeks. Residents believe the killings were ritual murders.

The term is used in South Africa, and elsewhere on the continent, to describe killings in which parts of the victims' bodies are cut off and used in potions.

Last year, police in Venda confirmed that several ritual murders were committed, but they denied charges of a cover-up aimed at protecting tribal chiefs and government officials allegedly involved in the killings. The killings last year prompted a homeland-wide general strike, and the justice minister was removed from his post.

Tribal chiefs using human entrails for black magic were blamed on Friday for the ritual murders of five young men in the past two weeks.

The discovery of the mutilated corpses, some missing limbs or internal organs, has struck terror in the remote Venda homeland in northern Transvaal Province, churchworker Magwendha Mpaphuli said.

Witchdoctors, or sangomas as they are called, still wield considerable influence in South Africa, particularly in rural areas.

The local sangoma, who tells fortunes by reading animal bones, is regularly consulted in case of illness or lack of success in love or business.

Mpaphuli said the authorities were reluctant to investigate because "people in high places" were blocking the probes. Police declined to comment.

Hand-over demand

Johnson Mlambo, exiled chairman of the PanAfricanist Congress of Azania (PAC) said yesterday that it would refuse to enter any negotiations with the South African goverment unless the settler colonial regime was prepared to hand over power to the black majority. (Reuter wirephoto)

Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski (right) meets with Polish Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski today at the Plenary Session of the Polish Workers Party Central Committee. (Reuter wirephoto).

Hardliners named

WARSAW, Poland, July 30, (AP): President Wojciech Jaruzelski has resigned as head of the Communist Party and departing Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski has taken the post, a move that seems certain to usher in a new chapter in Poland's political transformation.

It also signalled a bid to save the 2-million-member organisation from internal splits and an external challenge posed by the revived Solidarity movement.

Election as Communist Party leader used to be tantamount to being declared the nation's leader, but in Poland's new political arrangement Jaruzelski will continue to wield as much or more power than Rakowski.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev immediately sent congratulations to Rakowski after his election to the post yesterday, saying co-operation between the Soviet and Polish parties will continue "in a spirit of party friendship and mutual understanding," the official PAP news agency said last night.

In an apparent victory for conservatives, two hardliners, Warsaw party chief Janusz Kubasiewicz and Katowice Party chief Manfred Gorywoda, were named to the Politburo in the shakeup that followed Rakowski's election. Previously no hardliners were represented on the party's highest body.

At the same time, mostly reformist Politburo members linked to Jaruzelski were dropped, in what party spokesman Janusz Bisztyga called a drive for "new faces."

The Central Committee elected Rakowski first secretary by a secret ballot vote of 171 to 41, PAP said.

The Central Committee next conferred several hours on who will be Poland's next prime minister, but made no announcement before ending the plenum late in the evening.

Jaruzelski was to present his choice for prime minister Monday for approval by the Sejm, one house of the national assembly, where Solidarity now holds a significant minority. The Senate is dominated by communists.

Potential prime minister candidates mentioned before the plenum were Politburo member Wladyslaw Baka, Deputy Prime Minister Irenusz Sekula and peasant party leader Roman Malinowski. A rumour also circulated among Polish journalists yesterday that Interior Minister Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak would be chosen.

Jaruzelski resigned all his party positions: as first secretary, member of the Politburo and member of the Central Committee. The action seemed designed to underline that he will devote himself totally to the office of president he assumed July 19.

It meant that for the first time in Poland's postwar history, the party leader might not be the country's ultimate power.

The party no longer has a firm majority in parliament and as president, Jaruzelski will have legal control of the armed forces. In addition, the Army and police are believed to be more loyal to him than to Rakowski.

Rakowski, the seventh leader of the party since its founding in 1948, was the only candidate offered for the first secretary's job and was nominated by Jaruzelski, Bisztyga said.

The selection of the 62-year-old Rakowski to replace Jaruzelski culminated a remarkable political rise by the politician who joined the Politburo only in December 1987 after having been dropped from the government in 1985.

"The party is in a difficult situation but I believe I have support from hundreds of thousands of party members," Rakowski told state television shortly after his election.

"I believe that we can find a way out of this difficult situation."

Rakowski has led the government since October but submitted his resignation as prime minister when the new parliament was seated.

The Central Committee accepted the resignations of five of the 18 Politburo members and five out of nine party secretaries.

Besides Jaruzelski, the Central Committee accepted Politburo resignations from Jozef Czyrek, Kazimierz Barcikowski, Stanislaw Ciosek and Alfred Miodowicz. Miodowicz said he resigned because of wishes of members of the official trade union alliance OPZZ, which he heads.

They were replaced by Kubasiewicz, Gorywoda and Leszek Miller, a 43-year-old party secretary who has been active in promoting the party to young people.

A political survivor

An 'Old Fox' comes back

WARSAW, July 30, (Reuter): New Polish Communist Party chief Mieczyslaw Rakowski, one of the country's great political survivors, won the job despite strong attacks on the economic record of the government he headed for 10 months.

His selection to steer Poland's Communist Party through an era of political upheaval culminates the remarkable comeback of a man ousted from government in 1985.

He was elected by the Central Committee to replace his friend, President Wojciech Jaruzelski. Western diplomats said his main task would be to revamp the party and carry the reform process forward at a time of low morale among members.

A battle-hardened communist with a talent for bending with the prevailing ideological wind, Rakowski, 62, is a longtime opponent of the Solidarity free trade union movement that was re-legalised in April.

As prime minister from September, 1988, he introduced Western-style economic reforms but failed to stop the economy slipping towards the abyss.

Party and opposition economists accused him of mismanagement, saying his cabinet's controversial price rise plan would fuel high inflation, plunging 60 per cent of the population below the poverty line, and could spark unrest.

It was a measure of his political skill that Rakowski, nicknamed "stary lis" (The Old Fox), weathered the criticism.

"More than one great economic and political battle awaits us .... let us not bow our heads to the ground," he said in June, urging communists to take heart after their crushing defeat by Solidarity in last June's preliminary elections.

Rakowski himself was among several top party leaders who lost their parliamentary seats in the first partly-free elections Poland has seen since the 1940s.

Rakowski was a tough negotiator with Solidarity during the free trade union's first turbulent era of legality in 1980-81 and then became one of the leading defenders of the martial law policies imposed by Jaruzelski to crush it.

Sidelined to a parliamentary job in 1985 after four years as a deputy premier, he returned to centre-stage in December 1987 when he became a member of the ruling Politburo.

The grey-haired former journalist became prime minister the following September. He is due to step down next week when Jaruzelski nominates a new premier.

Rakowski, a frequent traveller to the West, is sometimes seen there as a liberal and is now regarded as advocating a shift to a more democratic, dynamic party image.

But many Poles see him as the epitome of communist orthodoxy, devoted to party discipline, ties with Moscow and the pursuit of personal power.

Although he says there is now no alternative to dialogue with the opposition, as recently as March 1988 he told party activists: "It is high time to take the offensive against our political enemy. He has nothing but a negative attitude."

Employed at the party's Central Committee in 1949 when only 23, Rakowski was virtually alone in surviving political storms that destroyed Stalinist leaders in the 1950s and party chiefs Wladyslaw Gomulka in 1970 and Edward Gierek in 1980.

His liberal image stemmed from his 1958-82 editorship of the party weekly Polityka, which he made one of the most readable communist-run publications.

Mass defiance to embarrass South African government

JOHANNESBURG, July 30, (Reuter): Opposition groups plan mass defiance of race segregation laws this week to challenge a government that is telling the world it wants to ease apartheid.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, who this month described apartheid as an albatross around South Africa's neck, has accused opponents of planning a violent campaign of bombings and disruption of health services.

Protest groups representing more than one million people say few years of mass detentions will not deter them from campaigning for desegregation of services like hospitals, recreational facilities and schools.

Vlok says he will take tough action against the defiance campaign, due to start on Wednesday, in which blacks will be encouraged to seek treatment at whites-only hospitals. A new law introduced last week makes people entering hospitals without official permission liable to fines and jail sentences.

"Government sources have often proclaimed apartheid is dead ... it must be brought to the attention of the world that apartheid continues," the opposition Mass Democratic Movement said.

Political analysts said that, provided the campaign were peaceful, a government crackdown would undercut weeks of official action portraying Pretoria as keen on political reform.

They pointed to unprecedented talks between President P.W. Botha and jailed black leader Nelson Mandela this month which drew rare praise for the authorities from a mainly unsympathetic world.

The meeting heightened speculation that Mandela, sent to jail more than 25 years ago, would soon be released and that there would be accelerated moves to end apartheid under the presidency of National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, almost certain to succeed Botha after September elections.

ndian opposition politicians unite to challenge Rajiv

EW DELHI, India, July 30, (AP): ational elections may be months ay, but more than 100 opposition liticians already have put aside diffing ideologies to produce a united npaign, fueled by renewed charges government corruption.

The politicians — ranging from mmunists to members of the rightng Bharatiya Janata Party — have nounced their resignations from rliament and joined in a challenge to me Minister Rajvi Gandhi and his governing Congress Party.

The usually divided opposition has revived charges that Rajiv blocked investigations into a bribery scandal surrounding the 1986 purchase of artillery guns. In resigning, the lawmakers said any parliamentary debate on the scandal would be stifled by the Congress party's majority.

"The initiative is now clearly with the opposition and the government is deeply worried and visibly on the defensive," the Conservative Hindu newspaper said after last week's announcement of the resignations.

The scandal had fallen dormant until a report July 18 by Indian's Auditor General cited inconsistencies in the $1.4 billion deal with AB Bofors of Sweden. The report said technical considerations and cost assessments were flawed in awarding the contract.

The report fueled opposition charges once again that the Swedish company paid kickbacks of at least $50 million to secure the contract.

The opposition alleged the money went to senior government officials and key members in the Congress party.

But there has been no proof, and Rajiv and the company have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

"The auditor-general has exposed that the prime minister has been telling lies to the country," said top opposition leader Viswanath Pratap Singh. "Never has the office of the prime minister been so degraded as by the present incumbent."

Five years ago, Singh was appointed Rajiv's finance minister after the Congress party won 410 of the 544 seats in the Lok Sabha, the law-making lower house of parliament.

Singh left the government and the party in 1987 amid clear circumstances, but these were allegations his investigations into government corruption were getting too close to Rajiv.

Singh then, Singh and his newly-founded Janata Dal, or People's Party, have made corruption in government their main election plank and have been trying to unite the opposition against Rajiv.

The efforts seemed to be falling in recent months, with sharp differences surfacing almost daily between parties on either side of the political spectrum.

But the opposition now appears intent on setting a co-ordinated opposition campaign prior to the elections, which must be held by Jan 4.

Student continues hunger strike

TOKYO, July 30, (AP): A South Korean radical student, blocked from marching home across the border after an illegal visit to North Korea, remained on a hunger strike for the fourth day today, the North's official news agency said.

The state-run Korean central news agency, monitored in Tokyo, quoted some of Im Sy-Kyong's fellow hunger strikers as saying "their strength had not been exhausted through the hunger strike but been redoubled with indignation at the enemy."

Ms Im was with about 500 people from 30 countries who started about a week ago from Mount Paekdu, at the northern end of North Korea, on a peace march intended to cross the border at the truce village of Panmunjom and end at Mount Hanna, at the southern end of South Korea.

The marchers have been demanding the reunification of Korea, divided since 1945 into the Communist North and capitalist South.

They reached Panmunjom, in the demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas, last Thursday.

The South had insisted Ms Im's planned border crossing would violate terms of the Armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean war. Witnesses at Panmunjom said North Korean officials stopped her from crossing, apparently to prevent a possible incident in the zone.

North Korean media said she then began a hunger strike in the Tong-Il (unification) Pavilion, in the North Korean part of Panmunjo, and was joined by more than 100 of the peace marchers. They were demanding authorities on both sides let them walk back across the border.

Today, the official North Korean Workers (Communist) Party newspaper Rodong Shinmun said the South Korean Government was blocking Ms Im's passage through Panmunjom and launching a "fascist offensive to stamp out the forces for reunification."

"Her participation in the Pyongyang Festival and her activities in the Northern half of Korea cannot be a crime. In the North, she has never unilaterally slandered or praised any idea and system of the North and the South but acted only in favour of reunification," said the Rodong Shinmun commentary, carried in part by the official news agency.

Ms Im defied her government's ban on unauthorised travel to the North when she travelled via Tokyo and East Germany to attend the July 1-8 world festival of youth and sudents in Pyongyang.

Seoul supports talks with the North on easing tensions and working for reunification, but insists all such efforts must proceed through official channels. It accuses the North of trying to foment unrest in the South by encouraging unauthorised visits by radicals and dissidents from the South.

South Korean officials say Ms Im cannot return home across the border and will be arrested on her return on charges of violating national security laws.

Storms killed 109 in Korea

SEOUL, July 30, (Agencies): Seventeen people were killed by landslides, collapsing walls or floods when Typhoon Judy lashed southern South Korea, raising the death toll in recent storms to at least 109, the state relief centre said today.

Four people were missing after the typhoon hit the port city of Pusan and nearby Kyongsang province yesterday.

The relief centre said 92 people were killed and 38 were missing after floods brought by torrential rains earlier last week in southern areas, particularly Cholla province.

Relief officials said typhoon Judy and the earlier rains made more than 20,000 people homeless.

About 89,000 hectares (220,000 acres) of farmland were flooded while 3,700 hectares (9,100 acres) of other crops were destroyed.

Property loss, including damage to houses and 50 ships, was estimated at 200 billion won ($300 million). Landslides cut water and power lines, blocked roads and railways and uprooted trees.

Military helicopters rescued nearly 2,000 people when rivers burst their banks last week, stranding villagers in the southwestern towns of Changsong and Haju.

Tropical storm Irving killed at least 102 people and injured 488 when it collapsed tens of thousands of houses and flooded vast areas of a northern Vietnamese province, an official report said.

Radio Hanoi said that incomplete statistics showed the storm that struck Thanh Hoa province July 24 also left an unknown number of people missing. The province is south of the capital, Hanoi, and overlooks the Gulf of Tonkin.

A text of Friday's domestic broadcast was seen Sunday in Bangkok. It said the storm collapsed 82,300 houses, damaged more than 500 hospitals, infirmaries and school buildings, destroyed fruit and timber trees, sunk 256 vessels and flooded about 64,700 hectares (26,190 acres) of newly planted rice or secondary crops.

Authorities were trying to prevent epidemics and peasants in Quang Xuong district repaired houses and washed withered rice plants after the floods receded, the radio said.

30,000 left homeless

100 killed in rainstorm

DHAKA, July 30, (Reuter): Two days of torrential rains and strong winds in southern Bangladesh have killed more than 100 people and left about 30,000 homeless, officials said today.

Forecasters said they feared worse storms were to come and rescue officials and volunteers were on full alert.

Officials said 30 members of a bridal party were killed when they were swept overboard from a boat in the Meghna River.

Another boat capsized in the River Teesta, killing 40 villagers and 30 fishermen drowned near Cox' Bazaar, a resort town in the Bay of Bengal.

Officials said rescuers found three other bodies floating near Cox' Bazaar and three more were electrocuted when their houses collapsed under torrential rain yesterday.

Rain also swept Chittagong Port city and the nearby Hill Tracts district today, bringing life virtually to a halt.

About 20,000 people have taken refuge in government buildings and schools in Lama sub-district in the Hill Tracts. Local officials said at least 10,000 others huddled in buildings flooded waist-deep after the Sahnkha and Matamuhuri rivers burst their banks.

Officials said gale-force winds battered Bangladesh's coast, flattening hundreds of houses, damaging crops and forcing thousands of families to seek safety.

Dhaka weather office said all major rivers were swollen after more than a foot (30 cm) of rain fell within the 48 hours ending this morning.

Indian troops board the 'INS Magar' at Trincomalee harbour (northeast Sri Lanka) today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Talks stall

(Continued from Page 1)

In Colombo, people crowded shops in the capital and other major towns today as the government relaxed a nation-wide curfew for ten hours.

The curfew was imposed at midnight on Thursday to thwart protests and attacks by Sinhalese extremists during the second anniversary of the 1987 Indian-brokered peace accord. The suspended curfew was back into effect at 4 pm (1030 GMT), today.

The state-run radio and television said the curfew will again be suspended at 5 am tomorrow (2330 GMT Sunday) as military officials reported peace throughout the country. The broadcasts did not say when the curfew might be reimposed.

More than 150 people denouncing the presence of the Indian peacekeeping troops have been shot to death by soldiers and police for violating the curfew, military officials said.

Heavily armed soldiers and policemen in steel helmets kept watch today in the capital of Colombo, where long queues quickly formed at bakeries and other food stores.

Hundreds of people also flocked to railway and bus terminals early today but there were no immediate indications that state transportation was operating. Private passenger buses started running early today.

Arrest stops peace talks

MANILA, July 30, (AP): Two prominent communists captured last week were in Manila seeking new negotiations with the government, but their arrest "destroys any opportunity for peace," rebels said today.

Suspected National Democratic Front chairman Satur Ocampo, 50, and his common-law wife, Carolina "Bobbie" Malay, 49, were arrested last Thursday while driving along a residential street in suburban Makati. President Corazon Aquino's government hailed the capture as a major setback to the rebels.

"The arrest of Satur and Bobbie comes at a time when the NDF is offering a serious and bold proposal to the Aquino regime and to the nation," according to a statement released to news organisations. The front has offered to resume peace talks if Aquino agrees to close the six US military bases in the Philippines in 1991, when their lease expires.

"Despite great risks to their security, these two comrades left the revolutionary bases in the countryside for a while and went to the capital city to work on the NDF proposal," the statement said.

The rebels said the government had disregarded the peace offer and "its eagerness to show off a prize catch to please its imperialist master (the United States) overrides any concern for peace and destroys any opportunity for peace."

Sunday's statement was signed by Antonio Zumel, who, along with Ocampo and Ms Malay, negotiated on behalf of the insurgents during peace talks that broke down in January 1987.

The front is a coalition of 12 Marxist groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army. The military claims Ocampo also served on the party central committee and the ruling politburo.

Aquino has refused to enter new peace talks unless the rebels first agree to lay down their arms. Last week, she claimed the government had not received any formal offer from the front to resume peace talks.

Aquino also has refused to say whether she will support extending the lease on the US facilities. Aquino is expected to visit the United States later this year for preliminary discussions on a new bases treaty.

Peace conference on Cambodia opens

Call for reconciliation

PARIS, July 30, (Reuter): France today opened an international peace conference on Cambodia with a call for all Cambodians to join in seeking a solution to one of the world's most murderous conflicts.

"The only acceptable solution is one which will give them (the Cambodian people) back their freedom of choice. It will be equitable and solid only if all Cambodians are associated and agree to take part," Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told the 19-nation gathering.

"It is now possible and urgent to put an end to one of the most murderous and unjust conflicts in our history."

Foreign ministers from all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — were taking part in the conference at a centre near the Arc de Triomphe.

As the talks opened, there was no clear sign of a breakthrough in the stand-off between Cambodian guerrillas backed by the United States and China and the Phnom Penh government, which is supported by the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

Cambodia's four warring factions are fundamentally divided on all significant issues. They almost boycotted the talks over a seating squabble settled only at the eleventh hour.

Ironically, the Khmer Rouge, blamed for at least one million Cambodian deaths from 1975 to 1979 in southeast Asia's most radical experiment with communism, is present with indirect Western support as part of the guerrilla coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Pro-Vietnamese Cambodian leaders, represented by Prime Minister Hun Sen, say the Khmer Rouge must never return to power. But Sihanouk insists it must be part of any future government of reconciliation.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze were representing their countries at the conference's opening sessions.

Among other nations attending were Japan, which yesterday offered to throw its economic might into rebuilding Cambodia if the talks find a solution, and the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was attending in a personal capacity.

China and non-communist Asian nations, the United States and the West are lined up behind the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition headed from exile by Sihanouk, who ruled his country as monarch and president from 1941 to 1970.

His young rival Hun Sen, an articulate former guerrilla, is staunchly backed by Hanoi and Moscow.

No clear outcome is expected unless the foreign ministers, primarily those of China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam and the United States, agree before they hand the talks to experts on Tuesday on which aspects of the conflict to address.

"I'm not optimistic. I don't see progress unless someone pulls a rabbit out of a hat," said one Western diplomat.

The conference, co-chaired by France and Indonesia, is racing against time to engineer a settlement before Vietnam completes a unilateral withdrawal in September of the last units of its invasion force which overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979.

(See Page 6)

United States Secretary of State James Baker (right) and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze (left) arrive at the Soviet Ambassador's residence in Paris for bilateral talks yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

British Foreign Secretary John Major (right) holds bilateral talks with US Secretary of State James Baker (left) in Paris today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Viets trying to retake positions

BANGKOK, Thailand, July 30, (AP): Vietnamese troops backed by artillery fire have been trying to retake Khmer Rouge guerrilla positions in western Cambodia near the Thai border, the guerrilla Army radio said.

The radio reported attacks on three areas of Battambang province bordering Thailand's Prachinburi and Chantaburi provinces — south Sisophon, Sisophon-Phnum Malai and Pailin.

Vietnamese troops "have been brutally trying to retake territory and positions that our national Army has liberated along the Cambodian-Thai border," the radio said yesterday. A text of the broadcast was obtained today in Bangkok.

It said the attacks showed Vietnam "was not withdrawing even an inch from the border" and did not want a peace settlement at the international conference on Cambodia, which was to open today in Paris.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978, ending three years of Khmer Rouge rule during which hundreds of thousands of people died in execution chambers and slave labour camps. Vietnam installed another communist government in Phnom Penh, but has pledged to withdraw all its estimated 60,000 to 70,000 troops within the next 61 days.

Thai military officers say pro-Vietnamese forces have intensified shelling of guerrilla positions in the past week, and dozens of heavy rounds crashed into Prachinburi's Ta Phraya and Aranyaprathet districts.

Several villagers were wounded and thousands of people evacuated from border areas.

Officials said the attacks could be intended as a show of strength during the Paris peace talks. The two sides also could be trying to take as much territory as possible before the Vietnamese pull out, they said.

Licence found near SOS

TOKYO, July 30, (AP): A reporter looking for clues to who spelled out a giant "SOS" on a mountain slope has found the driver's licence of a male climber who disappeared in 1984.

But police said today they have not found the climber's body nor have they identified human bones, thought to be a woman's, found near the "SOS" spelled out in birch branches on the 2,290-metre (7,514-foot) mount Asahidake, on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Koyo Aburatani, a reporter for the Hokkaido television station HBC, said he found a driver's licence, two cameras, a notebook and other items in a large hole beneath the roots of some trees about 50 metres (165 feet) from the SOS yesterday.

The name on them as Kenji Iwamura, who police said set out hiking on Asahidake on July 10, 1984. When he failed to appear for work a week later, his parents asked police to search for him, but they found no trace.

Police said the hole in which the licence was found was large enough for a human.

'Filipinos stealing from each other'

Graft is back in Manila

MANILA, July 30: As chief of the anti-smuggling agency n the Philippines, Jose Almonte calls himself an "economic warrior."

His greatest challenge, however, is knowing if the enemy ncludes his own superiors.

Almonte, like many who supported Corazon Aquino's virtuous rise to power in 1986, is waging a war against corruption where battle lines are blurred.

Last year, for instance, he charged two Aquino-allied Congressmen with smuggling, only to see Congress retaliate by slashing his agency's budget to five cents.

Charges of official corruption are striking deeper and deeper into the once-mighty moral shield of President Aquino's government. Although she herself is seen as untainted, the perception of graft by her underlings — and her weak action against it — has eroded her popularity.

Almonte, a former Army officer, fights smuggling with the same moral zeal that he once fought communist guerrillas. In 1986, as a colonel, he helped plan a coup attempt against Ferdinand Marcos. When Aquino took power, she made him the first officer promoted to the rank of general, and then later appointed him to the bureau that battles smuggling, a popular crime in this nation of more than 7,000 islands.

"Corruption under Marcos was a wholesome theft of dollars from foreign loans," he says. "Now we see Filipinos stealing from each other."

In a recent land-reform scandal, for instance, a group of people tried to cheat the government out of $2.5 million.

"That was the size of Imelda Marcos kitty for flowers," says Almonte. Even within his own department, known as the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), Almonte has a tough fight. The temptation to take bribes or make off with a confiscated container of imported goods is great among EIIB's low-paid workers. He has already fired 300 out of 1,000 employees.

But, he admits, until Aquino comes out more strongly in both action and words against corruption, his crusade is constrained. For the first couple of years of her six-year term, she pursued a policy of reconciliation among Filipinos rather than exercising tough leadership against wrongdoers.

Most observers say it is unclear whether there is any more or less corruption under Aquino than there was during Marcos' rule. What's certain is that corruption is more easily exposed even as Filipinos expect more from Aquino, whose anti-graft campaign against Marcos helped to bring him down. Aquino has slowly tried to reform the court system, but the effort remains limited because she does not want to appear to be hand-picking judges and thus gaining favours.

Three recent incidents, though, have forced Aquino to get tougher against corruption.

One was the land-reform scandal, known as the Garchitorena Affair, that many observers say has set back a key Aquino programme by six months. The President formed a special investigative body to clean up the affair last month, and appointed a new chief of the land-reform agency.

Another was the killing of an Army major during a holdup that revealed deep military and police involvement in financial crimes, sparking an Aquino-ordered crackdown in military ranks.

The third was political snipping by Aquino's nemesis, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, over her family's plan to "reform" their 14,000-acre sugar estate. The plan, using a legal loophole in the 1987 land-reform law, would leave two-thirds of the estate's ownership in family hands, while giving one-third of the corporation's shares to the 6,000 workers over the next three decades. Sen. Enrile's criticism of the plan angered Aquino. She launched a counter-attack by bringing up Enrile's past deeds when he served as defence minister under Marcos.

But more than just sparking a Filipino political feud, the dispute caused Aquino to make some careful admissions. She shelved the family land-reform plan for the time being, and announced in a speech June 19 that "corruption has returned, if not on the same scale (as under Marcos), certainly with equal shamelessness."

She promised renewed anti-corruption efforts that would "spare no one." She threw her support behind a new private group, called the National Coalition for Transparency (meaning clean government).

She tried to explain why no one from the Marcos era has been jailed for corruption, saying she feared being accused of waging a "political vendetta." The military came in for an attack, too. She ordered Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos to remove "scalawags and misfits" from the armed forces.

Defence chief Ramos quickly told commanders to draw up an "order of battle" against the corrupt in uniform, while claiming that the military justice system had already investigated or punished 1,195 service personnel.

How far such talk will go is unknown. The battle over corruption are often seen by observers here as just shadow-play for the 1992 presidential race or as a reflection of public disappointment after the high hopes of Aquino's overthrow of Marcos.

Escapee kills officer

BEIJING, July 30, (AP): A man who escaped from a prison in remote northwestern Qinghai three years ago killed a policeman and wounded four others before committing suicide, it was reported yesterday.

Malaysian minister addresses convocation

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30, (KUNA): The Islamisation of knowledge offers a good start towards the excellence of contemporary knowledge while preserving moral and cultural values, Malaysian International Islamic University (IIU) president Anwar Ibrahim said today.

However, the process of reconciliation between Islamisation and contemporary knowledge should not stop with merely intellectual re-orientation as it moves further into the social and cultural domains, Anwar who is also the education minister said in his address at the university's third convocation here.

It was therefore not the need to mould the Islamic values to fit into the fabric of modern knowledge but instead to transform the modern intellect so that it conforms to the value framework of Islam, he said.

"This is a major challenge," Anwar told the graduands.

A total of 384 graduands of the university were conferred with masters of comparative laws, bachelor of economics, bachelor of business administration, bachelor of law (Sharia) degrees and diploma in law and administration of Islamic judiciary, diploma in Sharia and practice and diploma in education.

Anwar said the time spent at the university had provided the graduands with some basic skills that had grounded them in the art and craft of Muslim scholarship.

'Great democracy' ruled out

Deng wants to keep in touch with masses

BEIJING, July 30, (AP): Senior leader Deng Xiaoping said in comments issued yesterday that he does not approve of "great democracy" but that the ruling communists need to keep in touch with the masses.

"We do not approve of great democracy. Great democracy is avoidable, and this requires having small democracy," wrote Deng, 84, who has crushed three populist movements in his decade of rule.

Deng ordered the June 3-4 Army attack on pro-democracy student protesters in Beijing in which hundreds and possibly thousands of people were killed.

The excerpts, read on the television news, did not explain what Deng meant by the terms, but "great democracy" appeared to be a reference to the kind of unfettered debate that he denounced during the protests.

By small democracy, he apparently was referring to controlled expressions of opinon as long as there is no challenge to the power of the party.

The broadcast said Deng wrote that the party should be supervised by the masses and by the eight sanctioned non-communist parties.

"If we don't accept supervision and expand the democratic life of the party and country we will be divorced from the masses and commit great errors," said the reported, quoting Deng's essay.

The broadcast report said the essay would appear in the next issue of the magazine "Party Building."

His essay was further quoted as saying the party must police itself.

"Whether or not the Communist Party is qualified to lead depends on our party itself ... on our party's ideology and work style," he wrote.

Meanwhile, the party announced it was issuing a new book called "Deng Xiaoping over 28 years," written by his colleagues and commemorating his "glorious and outstanding achievements."

The television news said the book were part of a new high profile, tinged with adulation, for the aging leader, who had been in semi-retirement.

He re-emerged to lead the June crackdown and since then a series of books and a movie about him have appeared. His name appears in newspapers daily, and millions of Chinese are being required to study his speech on crushing the student "rebellion."

Deng has said he did not want the mass adulation given revolutionary leader Mao Tse-Tung in his final years. The current campaign falls far short of that, although many Chinese are drawing a parallel.

Deng had been expected to retire later this year from his last official posts — as head of the state and party military affairs commissions.

But Western diplomats say they now consider that unlikely, given the Army's new prominence and power.

In other developments, Premier Li Peng told a French newspaper publisher that China was willing to maintain good relations with Paris despite "recent difficulties," but that the future of relations "depends on the French side."

The official Xinhua news agency said Li spoke in a meeting with Yang Yongju, publisher of Europe Times (Nouvelles d'Europe).

In Chicago delegates attending the first congress of Chinese students in the United States have created a fledgling national student union aimed at pressuring China for democratic reforms.

After lengthy debate and overnight revisions, delegates yesterday ratified a constitution creating the All-America Chinese Student Union.

"It's not perfect enough, but it's really a very good start," said Deng Jain, chairman of the congress.

Creation of the union was the main focus of the three-day congress, which attracted Chinese students from across the country, a spokesman for the congress said.

■ A Chinese Army officer and his wife who defected to South Korea across the border from North Korea are seeking asylum in a third country and Seoul will respect their wishes, a government official said today.

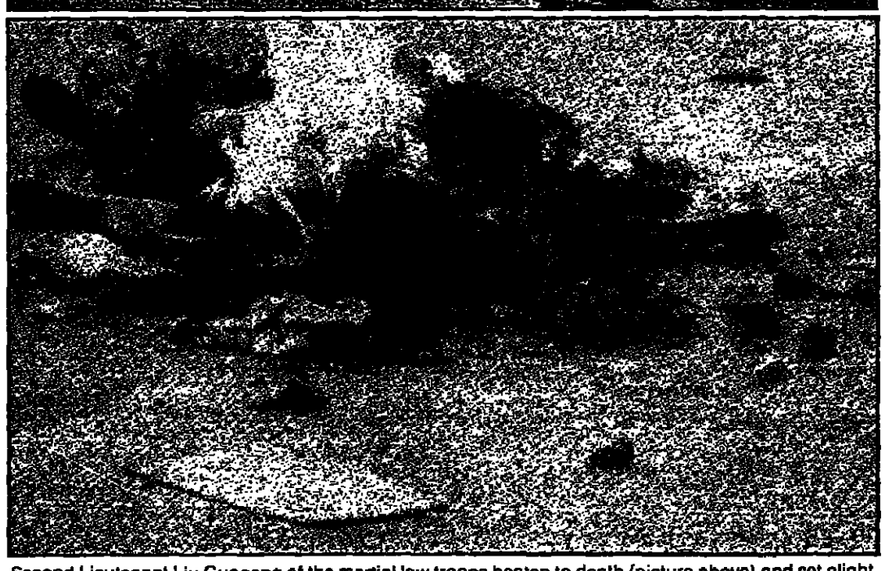
Zuo, a member of a Chinese detachment monitoring the 1953 Korean War armistice, and his wife walked across the demarcation line in the border truce village of Panmunjom yesterday.

Taiwan has launched a quiet diplomatic offensive against its communist rival, seeking to benefit from the international outcry that followed the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

■ Seven young women today became the first to take vows as Catholic nuns in Beijing since the communists took power in 1949.

The Chinese martial law troops clear up Tiananmen Square after the students withdrew on June 4.

Some of the wounded officers and soldiers of the People's Liberation Army during the riot.



Second Lieutenant Liu Guogeng of the martial law troops beaten to death (picture above) and set alight (below) near Xidan in central Beijing.

Crackdown display

Photographs from the crackdown on the pro-democracy unrest have gone on exhibit at a Beijing museum, drawing hundreds of curious Chinese to the officially sanctioned display.

Hundreds of Chinese stood close to the pictures, furtively pointing at familiar faces and places.

'Look, I know him,' one girl whispered to a friend as they stared at a photograph of student leaders addressing a crowd during the demonstrations.

The exhibit, which opened Friday at the China Art Museum, appeared to be the latest in a series of official efforts to persuade the people that the Army acted correctly.

Soviets hit out at US role in Kabul

Superpower summit 'soon'

PARIS, July 30, (Reuter): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday hit out at American involvement in Afghanistan, telling US Secretary of State James Baker his government was encouraging extremist elements there.

Soviet spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters that during more than three hours of talks at the Soviet ambassador's residence in Paris, Shevardnadze had expressed dissatisfaction at the role the United States was playing in Afghanistan.

"He said that we felt that the US was in some cases encouraging the extremists there rather than encouraging the political process in the country," Churkin said.

Both the United States and Soviet Union are guarantors of the Geneva accords under which Soviet troops finally withdrew from Afghanistan in February.

But both superpowers continue to pour weapons into the country, Moscow supplying the government of President Najibullah and Washington the mujahedeen rebels via Pakistan.

More than 60 people have died in the Afghan capital of Kabul in mujahedeen rockets attacks over the last three weekends.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said on Friday that the United States and Pakistan were more interested in stepping up aggression than finding a political settlement of the 10-year-old Afghan war.

"Shevardnadze said that what has happened in the past several months in Afghanistan has shown that attempts at a military solution are futile," said Churkin.

"More effort should be directed to political efforts and national reconciliation," he said, adding: "The government of Afghanistan has proven its ability to stand on its own."

Talks between the US and Soviet foreign ministers accelerated the pace of superpower dialogue and fixed a September meeting to prepare the first summit between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Shevardnadze said after more than three hours of talks with Baker yesterday that a superpower summit could take place "rather soon" if talks on September 19 and 20 go well.

But Baker would not be drawn on a summit date.

Both men were due to address a 19-nation Cambodian peace conference which opened today in Paris.

Moscow has not disguised its impatience for a summit.

Gorbachev and Bush's predecessor, Ronald Reagan, held five summits in three years, setting the fastest pace in thawing superpower relations since the cold war.

September's full-scale ministerial meeting will cover arms control, human rights, regional issues, bilateral relations and the environment as well as summit preparations.

It will probably take place in the northwestern US state of Wyoming. US sources said the venue would not be Baker's ranch there — a modest cabin — but possibly Jackson hole.

The spot lies beneath the rugged Teton range, perhaps the most majestic peaks in the Rocky Mountains. Baker showed Shevardnadze a picture of the landscape during their talks.

At their last meeting in Moscow three months ago, Gorbachev's team upstaged Baker, catching the Americans flat-footed with another unilateral arms control move — to scrap 500 short-range nuclear missiles in Europe this year.

The Paris talks appeared less competitive. They were described by the US side as productive and relaxed, lasting more than an hour longer than scheduled.

The Soviet side presented proposals to speed up a chemical arms ban and increase co-operation on scientific and economic matters to intensify the superpower dialogue.

The Americans made a vague offer of US technical help in tackling Moscows domestic economic problems.

A senior US official, who asked not to be identified, said Baker told Shevardnadze: "To the extent to which we can contribute technical advice, we're prepare to do (that)."

Baker and Shevardnadze spent most of their time discussing the Soviet Union's perestroika economic reforms and regional issues including Afghanistan, Central America, the Middle East and Cambodia.

■ French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Soviet counterpart, Shevardnadze met here today for talks on the conflicts of Cambodia and Lebanon.

Rift over Afghan massacre

Rebels flay each other

ISLAMABAD, July 30, (Reuter): Rival Afghan rebel leaders have denounced each other publicly, widening a rift over the recent massacre of 30 rebels of one group by another.

The Jamiat-e-Islami rebel Party of Burhanuddin Rabbani yesterday demanded that the Pakistan-based rebel government oust radical Foreign Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar until his Hezb-e-Islami Party was cleared of the massacre.

The Hezb said the Jamiat was arming its men for reprisals rather than calming the situation and accused rebel government President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi of fuelling the fire.

The rift could be a severe blow to the mujahedeen rebel struggle against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, rebel sources said.

Hekmatyar and Rabbani are respectively foreign and reconstruction ministers in the rebel government.

It was the first time any of the seven Pakistan-based Afghan parties in the main rebel alliance had attacked each other publicly since setting up their "interim government" in February after Moscow pulled its troops out of Afghanistan.

The Western-backed rebels have failed to win a quick victory against the Kabul government after Moscow withdrew more than 100,000 troops who had backed it for more than nine years.

The Jamiat says its 30 rebels, including 11 local field commanders, were ambushed by Hezb members in the northern Afghan province of Takhar on July 9 when returning from a strategy meeting with rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

Five rebels were killed in the ambush and 25 executed the next day in what the Jamiat has called a plot approved by the Hezb leadership based in Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

The Hezb, in acknowledging the incident, first called it a private matter rather than an inter-party affair.

But a statement by Hekmatyar yesterday accused the Jamiat of committing atrocities on the Hezb rebels and killing "a big number of them" in frequent attacks.

The demand for the ousting of Hekmatyar was made at a 8,000-strong Jamiat rally outside Peshawar, which was also addressed by Mojaddidi, who promised "exemplary punishment" of those found guilty.

Rabbani

In other developments, rockets hit Kabul yesterday, some of them showering shrapnel and shards of glass over a crowded bazaar. The government said 12 people were killed and 56 injured.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani accused US-backed Muslim rebels stepping up rocket attacks in advance of US-Soviet talks on Afghanistan, set for tomorrow in Stockholm.

In the past month, the rebels have been launching rockets from behind the hills that ring the capital. More than 200 people have died, nearly all of them civilians.

■ Four Afghan Air Force pilots who defected to the anti-communist insurgency in Soviet-made helicopters demanded today that Pakistan, a supporter of the rebels, return the aircraft to them.

The pilots defected on July 3, landing the helicopters at the southern Pakistani city of Quetta, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of the Afghan border. The Pakistan Defence Ministry impounded the aircraft.

■ President Najibullah brought back into the Afghan government today a former minister recently released after spending eight years in jail, a government spokesman said.

Khial Mohammad Katawazi, who is in his 30s, was appointed minister adviser to Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil but diplomatic sources said he might also be given an ambassadorship.

2 Greek-Cypriot priests freed

NICOSIA, July 30, (Reuter): Two Greek-Cypriot priests, the last of 108 protesters seized by Turkish-Cypriot police 11 days ago, returned home today amid hopes that reunification talks could now resume.

Cyprus government spokesman Akis Fantis said after the men returned to a rapturous welcome that he now hoped the next round of the United Nations-sponsored negotiations would be held later this week.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash postponed a meeting with President George Vassiliou last week as sectarian passions flared after the arrest of 38 women and 10 men during a Greek-Cypriot demonstration in the buffer zone dividing Cyprus.

Jubilant crowds waved Greek and Cypriot flags and motorists honked their horns when Bishop Chrysostomos of Larnaca and Archimandrite Georghios Papachrysostomou returned after being driven by the United Nations across the zone.

Along with most of the other protesters, they had refused to pay fines levied by a Turkish-Cypriot court and had not been due to be freed until next Thursday. Fantis denied reports that their fines had been paid for them.

The black-robed priests said they were beaten, abused and spat on when they were seized on July 19, eve of the 15th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of north Cyprus.

But they said they believed Greek and Turkish Cypriots could live together peacefully.

"We want to stress that Turkish Cypriots love us and want to live with us in peace," Bishop Chrysostomos told the emotional crowd.

Vassiliou, who travelled to Nicosia by helicopter to greet the priests, told the crowd: "We're all struggling to live in a peaceful Cyprus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots together."

The two priests said they had been on hunger strike for eight days because the Turkish-Cypriot authorities stopped them conducting religious ceremonies in prison.

■ Greek-Cypriot authorities have protested to the United Nations over the arrival of two Bulgarian Muslim families in the Turkish-held sector of Cyprus, the government said yesterday.

Government spokesman Akis Fantis called the Bulgarians' application to settle in the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot republic in northern Cyprus a "provocation."

Eight people carrying Bulgarian passports arrived in northern Cyprus from Turkey earlier this week and asked Premier Dervis Eroglu promised to help them obtain residence there.

Eroglu promised to assist them. The northern Cyprus government last month offered to settle 30,000 ethnic Turks from Bulgaria in the Varosha resort outside the port of Famagusta.

The proposal was denounced by Greece and the internationally recognised Greek-Cypriot government. Turkey did not accept the offer, saying it would use its own resources to provide shelter and jobs for more than 200,000 ethnic Turks who have left Bulgaria in the past three months.

No'man leaves for Saudi Arabia

Aden unveils reforms

ADEN, July 30, (Reuter): South Yemeni Prime Minister Yassin Said No'man left for Saudi Arabia today for talks aimed at furthering relations between the neighbouring countries.

Officials said No'man would brief South Yemenis in the kingdom on the new regulations encouraging them to take part in industrial and investment projects at home.

Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Abdullah Mohammed Othaman said his country would offer the half-million South Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia three-year, $10,000 investment bonds.

The bonds carry six per cent annual interest and permit holders to export and import goods from abroad.

Marxist South Yemen is introducing major political and economic reforms aimed as correcting its "past mistakes" and improving relations with its estranged neighbours.

The ambitious plans, published today in the official weekly magazine Al Thawry, set new economic, foreign and domestic policy goals.

Coming more than three years after President Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas ousted his predecessor Ali Nasser Muhammad in a bloody coup, the move is a clear sign that South Yemen is determined to break from the isolationist strictures of previous governments.

The South Yemeni reforms were first suggested in May when they were dubbed in the regional press as Aden's perestroika, a reference to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of economic liberalisation.

Since assuming power Attas has agreed to jointly explore oil with neighbouring North Yemen, and holds reunification of the two Yemens as a long-term goal. He has also eased strained relations with conservative neighbours Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The programme, signed by Secretary-General of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party Ali Salim Al Baidh calls for a reshaping of South Yemen's leadership and closer identification with Arab and Islamic culture.

It calls for "correcting wrong stands on Arab and Islamic culture and religion ... religious leaders and rebuilding mosques and other religious institutions."

"The new policies aim at following up internal and external changes and boosting Aden's relations with other nations, especially countries in the region," Baidh said.

The changes include pledges to revise the constitution, rotate the job of president, allow the publication of new newspapers and guarantee civil rights.

The plan urges South Yemenis to invest their capital at home and to rebuild the troubled economy.

To underline the reforms South Yemeni Premier Yassin said No'man travelled to Saudi Arabia where he is to lobby some of the estimated half-million of his countrymen working in the kingdom to invest in foreign currency bonds.

Foreign remittances from workers overseas are among Aden's chief foreign currency earners.

Taiwan's opposition party calls for democratic reforms

TAIPEI, Taiwan, July 30, (AP): Taiwan's largest opposition party today wrapped up its two-day congress with calls for more democratic reforms on this island.

In general elections on Dec 2, the ruling Nationalist Party faces challenges from a legal opposition party for the first time ever.

"The year-end election is crucial to the party and all Taiwanese," the Democratic Progressive Party said in a statement closing its conference. "We are determined to win the elections ... to achieve our goal of ruling Taiwan." Opposition parties were banned uner the 38-year-old martial law imposed in 1949, when the Nationalist government fled to Taiwan after losing a civil war to the communists on the Chinese mainland.

The Democratic Progressive Party was formed three years ago, but it became technically legal earlier this year when it registered with the Interior Ministry.

In a proposal approved by its congress, the party said Taiwanese should be allowed to vote for their own president, governors and mayors. It also demanded full re-election of the parliaments.

Taiwan's president is elected every six years by members of National Assembly, an electoral college. The cabinet appoints Taiwan governor and mayors of the two largest cities.

At stake in the December elections are 101 seats in the 297-seat legislative Yuan.

In the Yuan, Taiwan's highest lawmaking body, 182 members, mostly Nationalists, have held office since they were elected in 1949.

Palestinian children find it hard to adapt to normal life

Special ward at Cairo's Red Crescent Society treats intifada victims

CAIRO, Egypt, July 30, (AP): Twelve-year-old Osama, paralysed by a bullet wound, wheels himself around the Palestinian hospital, anticipating the time he can walk again.

That will mean, he said, that he can do again what got him shot in the first place: Rejoin his sister and two brothers in throwing stones at Israeli Army soldiers in his homeland, Gaza.

Osama is the youngest of eight Palestinian children and young adults from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip being treated at Cairo's Palestine Red Crescent Society Hospital for wounds suffered in the uprising there, the "intifada," now in its 20th month.

Most were injured by Israeli bullets or soldiers wielding batons.

In various stages of ill-health or paralysis, the eight are bored and frustrated, unable to cope with being on the sidelines of the intifada, with its tension and danger.

"They find it very hard to adapt to normal life," said Jane Iskandar, the hospital's head nurse who is Irish. "They are so used to fighting that they can't take medical instructions or co-operate at first.

"It takes them some time to calm down. They feel they have to fight. They're frustrated and want to go back."

On a recent morning, four of the patients sat, chatting, around an open window in the large, sunlit room nicknamed the intifada ward.

One 26-year-old Amin, of Gaza, said he was wounded one night as he ran from an Army patrol into a side street. But instead of safety, Amin said he found himself face-to-face with other soldiers, who first shot at the ground, then at him.

"When I get better, I want to return to my family," Amin said. "I expect problems there, but I can overcome them."

Like the other patients, Amin requested only one of his names be used for fear of reprisals against family members in the occupied territories.

As the four talked, young Osama rolled up in his wheelchair and pulled out snapshots of his older brothers and sister.

"They all go out in demonstrations," he said. "It drives my mother mad, but there's nothing she can do because all the children join."

Osama recalled that he was throwing stones at an Israel Army vehicle when soldiers shot him. The bullet pierced his chest and emerged from his back, leaving him paralysed from the waist down.

His crutches at his side, Nasser, in his mid-20s, said preventing such attitudes in the children of the occupied territories is impossible.

"I see my son of 7 in front of me one minute," Nasser said. "The next, he's gone" to throw stones.

Nasser said he was injured while trying to prevent soldiers from using his apartment window as a vantage point for firing on a demonstration. Soldiers breaking into his house pushed him out of the way, Nasser said, and he fell two floors to the ground, injuring his spine.

At least 521 Palestinians have been killed as a result of Israeli actions in the uprising, and another 85 have been slain by Palestinians as alleged collaborators with Israel.

Founded in 1968, the Palestine Red Crescent Society maintains branches in several Arab countries, and its hospital in Cairo is among the best-equipped in the organization. The society is financed by the World Health Organization, Arab agencies and other sources.

Hospital officials said patients at the intifada ward were brought into Egypt long after they had exhausted the possibilities of medical care in Arab hospitals in Israel.

Fat'hy Arafat, a physician who heads the Palestine Red Crescent, said Egypt quietly interceded with Israel to gain cross-border passage from the occupied territories for patients and about 280 Arab nurses and nursing students.

An official responsible for Palestinian affairs in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry refused comment on any role by Cairo, either with the patients or with the nursing students. The students came to the Palestinian Red Crescent for training by instructors from Norway, part of that country's Third World aid programme, and by volunteers from the United States, in addition to joining programmes in some Egyptian University hospitals.

Palestinian youth shot to death in West Bank

Israel arrests anti-Arab activists

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 30, (AP): Soldiers shot to death a 17-year-old Palestinian in the occupied West Bank, and a second Arab youth died today of a gunshot wound to the stomach suffered in a clash with troops, hospital officials said.

The Army and Palestinian sources gave contradictory reports on the death of Iyad Abdullah Abdel Qader, the 17-year-old killed in the West Bank village of Ras Karka.

The Army said the youth was shot by soldiers who opened fire on stone-throwing youths along a highway.

Villagers told Arab reporters that Abdel Qader was shot in the head at a distance of 12 feet (four metres) by soldiers who sneaked into the village on foot and opened fire without warning.

His death, and that of an 18-year-old who died after being reportedly shot last month by soldiers, brought to 523 the number of Palestinians killed in clashes with Israelis in the 19-month Arab uprising. Thirty-eight Israelis also have been slain.

Police, meanwhile, arrested eight Israelis on suspicion they were fomenting rebellion as members of the "free state of Judea" movement, which calls for founding a Jewish nation in the occupied West Bank.

Most of the suspects are members of the anti-Arab Kach Movement led by American-born Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Israeli news reports said the arrests were connected with damaging and destroying Palestinian orchards, but police spokesman Ron Yishayahu could not confirm this.

The Free State of Judea was founded last January by Jewish settlers who claimed the Army was failing to protect them from Arab attackers.

Also today, an Israeli Arab lawmaker said he is demanding a parliament debate over an incident in which soldiers opened fire after breaking up a "solidarity" visit by Israeli Jews and Arabs to the West Bank village of Nahalin.

Four Palestinians were reported wounded yesterday in the shooting, which apparently was aimed at youths who threw stones at troops. Army spokesmen refused comment on the case today.

Abdel Wahab Darousha, a Member of Parliament from the Arab Democratic Party, said the rally was broken up after both he and fellow Israeli Arab legislator Mohammed Miari gave speeches urging establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Darousha said he also was demanding dismissal of an Army officer whom he saw wearing a helmet that had printed on it in hebrew "I was born to kill children."

Also today, attendance at West Bank schools was down after students were faced with rival demands on whether to attend classes during a general strike that shut down both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Masked supporters of the PLO-backed leadership of the Palestinian uprising ordered students to stay home, while activists from the Muslim movement Hamas, or Zeal, told youngsters they must attend classes.

"No to ignorance, go to school," read a slogan signed by Hamas that was scrawled on walls in Balata village near Nablus.

Classes have been halted in the West Bank through much of the uprising becuase the Army said the schools were hotbeds of violence. On July 21, the Army reopened classes for 220,000 students and said it would reopen the rest if there was no trouble.

In Ras Karka, Abdel Qader was shot in the head last night and pronounced dead at a hospital in nearby Ramallah, hospital officials said.

A military spokesman said 227 houses have been demolished in the occupied territories during the uprising, but Palestinian groups say the number is higher.

Abdel Wahab Darousha (right centre behind soldier) a Knesset (parliament) member from the Arab Democratic Party, faces off with Latif Dori, a leftist Israeli as they confront soldiers today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israeli activists hamper troops pursuit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 30, (Reuter): Peace activists, including two Arab members of Israel's parliament, blocked troops from chasing Palestinian stone throwers in a West Bank village yesterday, a witness said.

The witness, a press photographer, said the incident took place in Nahalin where bout 200 activists, including Knesset members Abdel Wahab Darousha and Mohammed Miari, went for a meeting with residents.

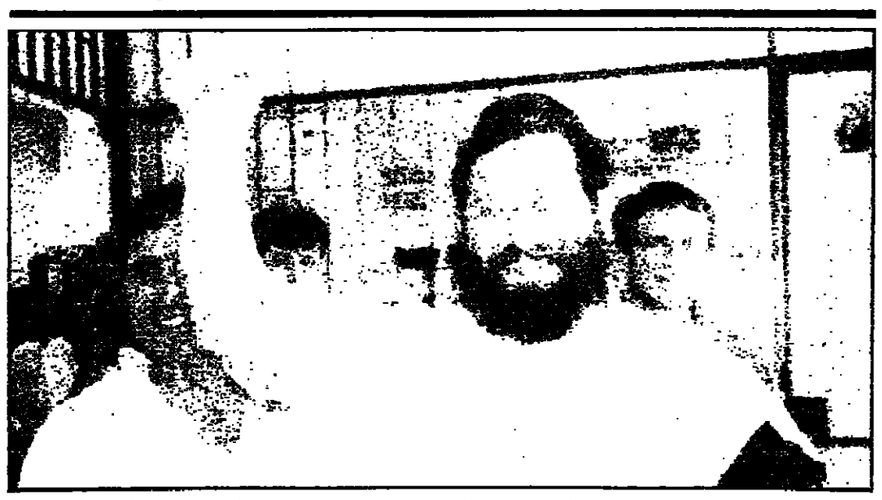
Troops surrounded the village near Bethlehem during the meeting and Nahalin youths blocked roads into the village with boulders, the witness said.

At the end of the meeting, Darousha asked the troops and youths to disperse so the road could be cleared and the activists could leave in their buses.

But some of the youths threw stones at the soldiers who retaliated by firing rubber bullets, the witness said. The youths fled past the activists with about 25 soldiers in pursuit.

The activists linked hands to block the soldiers, who tussled briefly with Darousha, Miari and other activists, the witness said.

The troops gave up the chase and in talks with the activists both groups agreed to leave the village, the witness said.



Raeuch Marzel, secretary of the anti-Arab movement raises his fist for photographers as he is arrested. (Reuter wirephoto)

Iranians approve statutory changes

TEHRAN, July 30, (AP): Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani captured 94.5 per cent of votes cast in Iran's presidential election and will have unprecedented powers under constitutional changes approved at the same time, according to final results announced today.

The constitutional amendments were approved by 97.38 of voters in a referendum held simultaneously with the election, Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi told a news conference.

Mohtashemi said the 54-year-old speaker received a total of 15,537,394 out of 16,439,247 ballots cast. His only challenger, former Agriculture Minister Abbas Sheibani, won 632,583 votes or 3.8 per cent.

In the referendum, 15,998,128 voters said "yes" to constitutional changes that scrap the prime minister's post and broaden the president's authority. There were 397,830 votes against.

Mohtashemi said a record 70 per cent turn-out in Friday's election "proved the strength and stability of the Islamic Revolution ... despite threats, plots and conspiracies by enemies of the revolution who tried to disrupt the democratic election process."

Mohtashemi said "leftist, monarchist and liberal groups" had threatened sabotage or called on people to abstain from voting.

He said Iranian security forces had blocked attempts to smuggle in weapons and ammunition and arrested "elements co-operating with foreign agents" but gave no further details.

Iran's official media earlier had said Ayatollah Ali Khamenei won a record 18 million votes when he was first elected president in 1981.

But Mohtashemi said that figure was wrong, and the previous record was 14 million votes.

Iran has 24 million eligible voters over the age of 16.

Sheibani, a Tehran parliament deputy who heads the token opposition Freedom Movement, conceded defeat yesterday in a letter congratulating Rafsanjani on his election and wishing him "success in performing worthy services."

It was not immediately clear when Rafsanjani, a middle-ranking cleric who emerged as Iran's new strongman after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini on June 3, would take over as president.

Khamenei, who succeeded Khomeini as the Islamic Republic's supreme leader, is due to step down when his second four-year term ends in September.

But he could hand over power earlier so that Rafsanjani can start tackling the country's economic problems, which include soaring inflation, high prices and widespread shortages.

Prensir Hussein Musavi, whose job was eliminated by the referendum, asked Khamenei today to supervise the transition to presidential rule, saying in a letter "I request that you be in charge of governmental affairs and the cabinet as in the past until the new government is formed."

Khamenei in his reply asked Musavi to stay on until the new government is formed. Both letters were made public by the official Tehran Radio.

Tehran newspapers speculated that Musavi, a stern fundamentalist linked with Mohtashemi in the Iranian hierarchy, will likely be given a key position by Rafsanjani because of his 8-year experience as premier.

Rafsanjani is expected to move swiftly in forming his new cabinet, which he can appoint and dismiss under the constitutional reforms sanctioned by Khomeini a few months before his death.

He also will head a newly formed supreme security council that will control Iran's security apparatus and the military as well as supervising the budget and economic policy-making.

Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, poised to become Iran's fourth and most powerful president, casts his ballot in Tehran yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto).

Rafsanjani is facing odds

It won't be easy

NICOSIA, Cyprus, July 30, (AP): Iran's new President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has unprecedented powers. But he will have to walk a political tightrope to achieve his expected goals of rebuilding links with the West and liberalising life in the Islamic republic.

He has been armed with more executive power than any of his three predecessors because of constitutional amendments — overwhelmingly approved in a national referendum held alongside Friday's presidential election.

But he will have to tread carefully to avoid triggering a backlash from radicals dedicated to preserving the ideological purity of Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution.

Under the constitutional reforms, set in motion by Khomeini himself before he died June 3, the post of prime minister will be scrapped to put the government under the presidency, which has been a largely ceremonial position in recent years.

Rafsanjani, 54, has authority to appoint or dismiss the cabinet. He will also head a newly formed Supreme Security Council, which will control Iran's vast security apparatus and military, and have charge of the budget, planning and the economy.

The constitutional amendments are designed to eliminate rival power centres that have paralysed government for years and delayed economic and social reforms. In theory, they should permit more cohesive and effective government now.

Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists, was elected by Iranians eager for change after 10 years of revolutionary turmoil, a devastating war with Iraq, economic hardship and the rigid Islamic code imposed by Khomeini.

Voters interviewed in Tehran during Friday's polling were unanimous in saying they were looking to Rafsanjani, who has been in the forefront of Khomeini's revolution from the start, to improve their lot.

But Iran's 50 million people, battered by runaway inflation, high prices, widespread unemployment and shortages of just about everything, may be expecting too much, too soon.

Rafsanjani has sought to dampen expectations by stressing: "I will try to realise what is practicable."

He underlined in a television interview last week that his hopes for a new era "may or may not square with the potentials at hand."

Rafsanjani has acknowledged that he faces daunting problems an economy run into the ground by the 8-year war, poor management and a decade of Iran's self-imposed isolation.

Mohammad-Hassan Sazegar, deputy minister of heavy industry, outlined the problems with unusual candor at a seminar on industrial problems last month.

"Our economy is now in its worst shape ever," he said. "Production is lowest in our industries."

He said the 120 factories supervised by his ministry are producing at only 30 per cent of capacity because of shortages of raw materials, spare parts and energy.

Such frank comments indicate that more realistic thinking is emerging in the upper echelons of the leadership than was possible while Khomeini was alive, dominating every aspect of Iranian life with stern Islamic inflexibility.

Rafsanjani and his main ally, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who replaced Khomeini was Iran's supreme religious leader, favour a free-market system to revitalise the economy.

They know too that large-scale foreign investment is needed to improve the economy and carry out massive post-war reconstruction, and that will only come if relations with the West are restored.

They are opposed by revolutionary hardliners like Hussein Musavi, the outgoing prime minister, and Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who argue that foreign economic intervention will dilute the revolution's ideological purity.

So far, Iran's fractious leadership has displayed unexpected unity to ensure a smooth transition of power since Khomeini died. But deep differences still separate the pragmatists and the radicals.

Diplomats and analysts believe that if the radicals perceive Rafsanjani to be straying from Khomeini's ideological legacy they will challenge him.

Khamenei and Rafsanjani have adroitly outmanoeuvred the radicals in recent weeks. A potential challenge by Khomeini's son Ahmad was defused before it got off the ground.

In foreign policy, the new president has reaffirmed that he will adhere to Khomeini's "neither East nor West" decree. But he has stressed: "We do not want to strain relations with countries which would like to have healthy ties with us."

Beirutis enjoy Pink Floyd music in respite from battles

BEIRUT, July 30, (Reuter): War-weary residents of Beirut got at least a temporary respite from artillery battles between Syrian and Christian forces that have killed 40 people in three days and forced thousands to flee.

Citizens who did not join an earlier exodus of cars choking the coastal highway to safer areas in the south turned on their television sets last night to enjoy a concert by the pop group Pink Floyd.

The Christian Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) transmitted the concert despite a three-month-old power shortage that has worsened the already grave problems of everyday life in the capital. Most Beirutis own electric generators.

Listening to the music of David Gylmour instead of to the roar of blazing guns gave some civilians hope that an Arab ministers' meeting in Rabat would bring an end to the bloodshed.

"Thank god there is no shelling today. The songs and the music of Pink Floyd have given us hope that we can live a better life if fighting stops in Lebanon," said Issam, a resident of Muslim West Beirut.

Yesterday's pause in the artillery duels between Syrian forces and troops of the Christian Army Commander, Major-General Michel Aoun, allowed thousands of civilians to flee south in cars packed with their belongings.

Rockets and heavy artilerry shells on Thusday and Friday nights hit both sectors of Beirut, Druze villages overlooking the capital, nothern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa valley.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco met in Rabat last night in a bid to stop the bloodbath.

Diplomatic sources in Morocco said the ministers would probably appeal to the international community to step up pressure on all parties in Lebanon's war to make concessions.

More than 500 people have been killed since the battles flared in mid-March when Aoun set his warships to seal off Muslim militia-run ports," south of Beirut.

He then vowed to drive some 40,000 Syrian troops deployed in 70 per cent of the country, torn by 14 years of civil war.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Egyptian minister

CAIRO, July 30, (Reuter): Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb will visit the United States next month in his first trip there since his appointment, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said today.

Abu Taleb took up his post in April, replacing powerful defence chief Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala who had been widely regarded as the number two man in Egypt.

MENA said Abu Taleb would visit the US from August 7 to August 11 at the invitation of US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to discuss defence co-operation.

Drug addicts

NICOSIA, Cyprus, July 30, (AP): An Iranian official in the country's southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province said today that government employees will be among drug addicts sent to hard labour camps for up to a year to recuperate, Tehran radio reported.

The broadcast quoted the unidentified head of the province's main law enforcement agency, the Komiteh, as saying that all drug addicts in the province, including government employees, will be rounded up and sent to one of four labour camps in Sistan-Baluchistan.

Government employees will be relieved from their posts for the duration of their stay, the radio quoted the official as saying.

Rebels kill four

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, July 30, (Reuter): Kurdish rebels killed four people including a baby and blew up a bridge in southeastern Turkey, security sources said today.

They said autonomy-seeking rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), raided Gulburnu village near Eruh, 70 km (45 miles) from the Iraqi and Syrian borders last night.

A new-born baby and a man burned to death in two houses set on fire by the rebels before they fled after killing two men.

Another group of rebels blew up a bridge under construction near Sirnak on the same night, the sources said.

Intifada casualties

WASHINGTON, July 30, (KUNA): The Palestinian intifada has so far claimed the lives of 677 Palestinians, including 147 children under the age of 17, according to figures released here by a occupied Jerusalem-based human rights group.

The Database Project on Palestinian human rights released through its Chicago-based office the latest figures, showing that 677 died of gunshot wounds, beatings, and other injuries, including tear gas inhalation, between Dec 8, 1987 and July 13 of this year.

Iraq mourns

BAGHDAD, July 30, (Reuter): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday attended a ceremony marking the end of the 40-day mourning period for Baath Party founder Michel Aflaq.

"The name of Michel Aflaq will remain immortal in our hearts and in the history of the great nation which gave birth to him," Hussein said in the ceremony covered by Iraqi Television.

Higgins to hang, captors threaten

(Continued from Page 1)

situation closely and alertly," an Army official said.

The kidnappers of American hostages in Lebanon will be held responsible for their safety, the White House said today in response to a threat by a pro-Iranian group to kill Higgins.

"We hold the kidnappers of American hostages fully responsible for their safety," the White House said.

"We expect those who have influence with the hostage holders to do everything possible to ensure that no harm comes to those hostages or other Americans," a statement said.

The State Department called the threat to kill Higgins, an affront to the civilised world.

"It is outrageous and uncivilised that he should have been taken hostage in the first place," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters in Paris, where Secretary of State James Baker is attending an international conference.

"It is equally outrageous and uncivilised to threaten to kill him," she said. "The threat against his life is an affront to the entire civilised international community."

The failure of secret talks in London with Iran on three missing Israeli soldiers prompted Israel's kidnapping of Obeid, the Sunday Times newspaper said.

Attributing its information to an unidentified "highly-placed source," the weekly said representatives of the Israeli and Iranian governments met in London last month to discuss the missing soldiers.

Talks were broken off because of Israeli frustration at lack of progress, the paper said, without identifying participants.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Stricter penalties for traffic transgressions

Awareness lectures for students

DIRECTOR of the Traffic Department for the Capital Government Col Salem Al Roumi has said that the Ministry of Interior is currently considering two projects aimed at revising the existing traffic code with a view to increasing penal measures for certain traffic transgressions.

He told a local daily that the department had of late introduced computers into its various functional areas, which was accompanied with preparing intensive training courses for a large percentage of the department staff.

He said that despite the high level of traffic organisation and planning of roads in Kuwait, tragic accidents still occur; the reason is regrettably overspeeding. The department has stepped up its efforts to raise the level of public traffic awareness, rectify certain erroneous driving patterns, and ensure safety for all road-users, Roumi said.

The proposed stricter penal measures involve transgressions such as driving without authorisation, using a vehicle without proper consent of the person in whose name it is registered, driving a car with defective braking mechanism, racing on roads, running through red signals, overspeeding, driving in the wrong direction and using a vehicle not meeting approved safety security requirements.

He said that traffic policemen could issued tickets to violators of the traffic code even if they happen to be off duty or outside the area of their authorised operation.

Testing

Roumi added that a ministerial decision had been issued allowing private technical workshops to carry out technical testing of vehicles under licence obtained from the Interior Ministry and a practice licence from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. These workshops would have to have its offices located in suitable areas to allow for a co-working team from the Ministry of Interior who would be responsible for completion of related paperwork and registration renewal procedure.

He pointed out that special co-ordination was under way with the Ministry of Education whereby lectures were being developed for students, in order to make them more conscious of traffic regulations and proper road-user ethics.

No change in transport fares

KPTC improves services

THE Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) does not intend to increase or decrease the current transport fares for its land or marine services and it has contributed to solving traffic congestions by building large number of multi-storey carparks according to Abdul Wahab Al Haroun, chairman of KPTC.

He said that difference in ferryboat fares to Failaka for Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis is due to the fact that Kuwaitis travel to and from the island with higher frequency than non-Kuwaitis. Kuwaitis have to move around more frequently for reasons of social connections, and the dictates of tradition.

Drivers

He added that speedy ferryboats are available for those who appreciate the element of speed, of course with a variance of fares, being KD 1.500 while normal ferries charged KD 1.

He said that KPTC continually improved its collective transport service, and that part of this policy is to replace 10 per cent of the operating buses on an annual basis. Further, KPTC is seeking to obtain priority of passage at intersections and traffic lights for its vehicles through co-operation with Kuwait Municipality and the Traffic Department.

He pointed out that the KPTC staff of drivers were hired from abroad on the basis of skill and competence. Yet, these drivers are offered two months of training and orientation in the traffic code enforced in Kuwait in order to tailor their driving skills to suit the requirements of the company.

KPTC will operate special bus services to newly constructed suburban areas, such as Firdous, Ardiya, West Fintas and Qurain, and that arrangements to this effect will be taken as soon as the roads to these areas are constructed.

KPTC provides incentives to encourage its well-performing staff to optimise their performance and exert extra efforts as a means to set down a good example for others to follow.

KPTC services helped reduce traffic congestion by trying to provide a substitute to private cars and encourage people to use its vehicles. According to a study by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research it indicated that KD 127 million is the annual cost of traffic accidents. Encouraging the disuse of private cars KPTC contributed KD 20 to 25 million.

He said the total number of existing KPTC staff is 5700. It has 4000 drivers from different nationalities, 1500 drivers for collective transport service, with 5 per cent being reserves bringing the total number of drivers to 1600

The Company had on several occasions suspended drivers from work on grounds of complaints registered by the inspectors. These violations cited smoking while driving, failure to dispense tickets to passengers, failure to collect fares, running red traffic signals and others.

Sunshades

He said that the KPTC is planning to provide about 400 sunshades at bus-stops, and that the total number of existing sunshades is 3000. Work is also in progress to replace old sunshades with new ones.

The Higher Traffic Council has adopted a special policy aimed at reducing traffic accidents, and the council had over the past period been successful in controlling the vanette-transport phenomenon. However, this problem still exists in the form of operation of private cars as public transportation means. This can only be controlled through close co-operation between the individual and the authorities whereby each individual should report drivers of private cars offering to take passengers from the street in exchange for money.

Transplant conference in Bahrain Oct 23-26

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

A MAJOR international medical conference highlighting human organ transplants and how Islamic scholars view them will be held in Bahrain with participants from a host of countries later this year.

The second Middle East Medicare Conference is scheduled to be held in the island from October 23rd to October 26th this year with the support of the Bahraini Health Ministry, the Bahrain Medical Society, the BDF Hospital and the Amiri Academy of Medical Specialists.

According to Dr Abdul Wahab, chairman of the organising committee, Islamic view on the topic will be included in view of the importance of transplant surgery in future and because Islam is not against the concept of transplanting human organs.

The conference is expected to better the first Medicare Conference held in Bahrain in 1987 when 120 speakers from all over the world presented a total of 160 papers and about 50 companies took part in the exhibition, said Dr Wahab.

It is hoped that more papers will be presented this time. About 40 speakers from Arab countries, India, Germany, United States, Canada, UK, Ireland, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia have confirmed their participation in the event so far.

Umm Torki, a Bedouin woman teaching Sadu skills to one of the girls at the course.

Sadu training for girls

Summer club course

By Seham Harb

THE Ministry of Education has organised a "Sadu Training Course" for girls who are members of summer clubs. The girls are divided into three groups and are chosen from fifteen summer clubs.

The course is being supervised by four training instructors who come from a Bedouin background and have long experience in this traditional handicraft.

Seyassah interviewed the course supervisor at the Sadu House, Fatma Al Rasheedi who said that the training is intended to be imparted to 60 summer club members in order to preserve old Kuwaiti (Bedouin) handicrafts and to popularise it among all girls schools. She pointed out that the Sadu handicraft is considered one of the most historical and traditonal handicrafts known to desert residents in Kuwait and the Arabian Peninsula.

She said that trainees have evidenced keen and rapid interest with the Sadu handicraft which indicates that old handicrafts are still very much alive in the hearts of the younger generations.

She pointed out that the output of the trainees will be displayed for sale at the permanent exhibition organised by the Ministry of Education. A special party will be held during the middle of next month at which prizes presented by HH the Amir will be distributed among trainees in addition to graduation certificates.

She added that trainees should pass through at least four Sadu courses to be able to become fully aware of all Sadu techniques. A certificate is then presented to trainees at the end of the four training courses enabling them to teach Sadu to others.

Kindergartens open to all nationalities

THE head of the kindergarten section at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Sharifa Al Shatti has said that kindergartens in Kuwait are open to all children regardless of their nationalities.

Anyone living in this country has the right to contribute and take part in different activities of these kindergartens. The membership of these is open to girls over 4 years and boys between 4 to 10 years of age. She added that any member can take part in any activity offered. Kindergartens increase their activities during summer holidays which include competitions and contests.

Shatti added that there are 10 kindergartens in Kuwait. But most of these are in Kuwait City and its suburbs. She added that there are no kindergartens in Jahra Governorate. But she added that the ministry will open one in the near future and increase the number in Ahmadi Governorate which has only one.

She added that mothers of children can actively participate in activities. "We receive and respect proposals submitted by these mothers to improve work at kindergartens."

She pointed out that HH the Amir supports and encourages kindergartens through financial rewards granted to outstanding children. She added that kindergartens need informational support and coverage of their activities in order to encourage children to participate in programmes. She added that the ministry intends to develop activities. It also has a trend to increase numbers of supervisors and to maintain the old kindergartens, she added.

18,000 new students in private schools

ASSISTANT Undersecretary for Private Education at the Ministry of Education Yaqoob Al Sharrah has said that approximately 18,000 students are expected to register at various educational levels in private schools for the coming academic year.

Speaking to a local newspaper the official said that private schools in Surrah and Jabriya will monitor the admission of students to meet predefined ministry standards which stipulate a maximum of 36 students per class. The total number of students at the private education schools for this year will be 140,000 housed in 120 schools, the official said.

He added that private education is receiving increasing number of students over the past ten years, and that this increase led to the increase in complication of related administrative and professional procedures at these schools. The need now is to provide well-qualified staff to meet the growing pressure Sharrah said.

He added that this led to the need to revise the codes and provisions under which these educational institutions operated to meet the requirements of development. He commented that more and more Kuwaiti students are joining private schools with the consent of their parents.

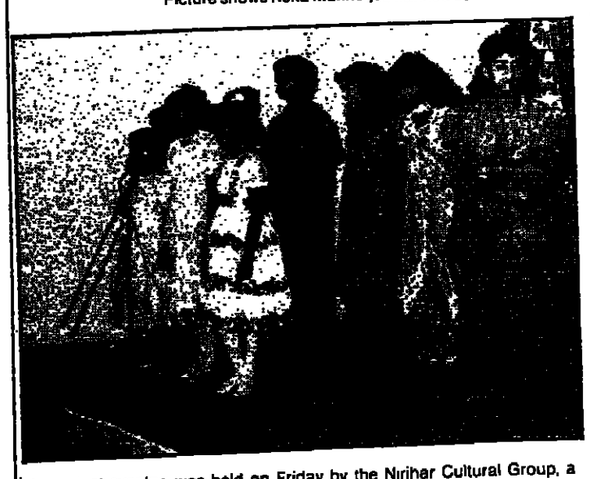
He disclosed that a joint committee from the ministry and Kuwait Municipality has approved one out of eight applications for the construction of a new private school. Additionally, three model schools are currently under construction and expected to become operational next academic year, while four others are expected to open this year. All are Arabic schools.

EVENTS

An Indian classical musical evening was held on Friday. Vocal and instrumental music was presented by classical music performers in Kuwait.

Among those who took part were vocalists Keka Mukherjee, Mumtaz Hussain, Khan Saheb Ahmad Hussain; instrumentalists Manzoor Hussain (flute), Pandit K.N. Mukherjee (sitar), and S.S. Ambikhar and Amjad Hussain (tabla).

Picture shows Keka Mukherjee flanked by Mumtaz Hussain and S.S. Ambikar.



A musical evening was held on Friday by the Nirjhar Cultural Group, a Bangladeshi organisation, for the Eid Al Adha at the Bangladesh embassy premises. Dances and songs were presented by children and amateur artistes. Above: some of the children singing a song

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hafez Pharmacy
Salah Al Deen Street
Al Rasheed Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Joudar Pharmacy
Hawalli, Tunis Street
Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Al Bader Pharmacy
Salmiya, Al Blajat Street
Fahaheel and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road, Abu Halifa
Jleeb Al Shoyoukh
Al Razi Pharmacy
Plot 17, Block 14
Jahra
Area 4, Plot 48.

CINEMA

Al Firdous
Kathron Ke Khiladi
Starring: Dharmendra
Madhuri Dixit
Fahaheel Open-Air
Nafrat Ki Aandhi
Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Al Salmiya
Arabic film
Fahaheel Open air
Meri Zabaan
Al Fahaheel
Red Scorpion
Al Jahra
Italian Boys
Granada
Born American
Al Salaibikhat
Eat The Rich
Al Jleeb
Red Scorpion
Ahmadi Drive-in
Winners and Sinners

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.38 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.30 pm
Maghreb	6.41
Isha	8.07

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Khair: Local programme
9.30 Iftah Ya Simsim: children cultural programme
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.15 Al Hob Wa Essabar: Arabic serial (last part)
11.20 Ezaaj: local serial.
12.30 Summer Clubs
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite
1.30 Sport Belli: cartoon serial
2.15 Hara Nesseeha Al Zaman: Arabic Serial (Part 9)
3.30 Bibi Folk and Calimiro: cartoon serial
4.00 Meerath Al Sineen: historical serial (Part 6).
5.45 Children and Summer: prepared by Samiya Mohammed
7.00 The World of Tomorrow: cultural programme
7.45 Holy Quran and Science.
8.30 Around the World
9.00 New in Arabic
9.30 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjis
10.00 Haribat Mina Al Madhi: daily Arabic serial (Part 14)
11.00 Ihtimalat: cultural programme, starring Al Zinati Qudsiya, Madleen Tabar and Amal Sokar
12.30 News Summary
12.35 The World Today via Satellite

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
6.30 Scheme of Things: computer-technology is used as a dancing aid and other topics.
7.00 Roving Report: a weekly report of regional and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: it could be a moment of triumph: Charles is asked to deliver a speech.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Paradise: "Treasure." Ben and George stumble on a map leading to the Chinese treasure.
9.30 227: "The Big Deal." Mary can't cope with the behaviour of a guest. Starring: Jackee.
10.00 Indelible Evidence.
10:30 Jack and Mike: "The Quality of Mercy." Jackie's instincts tell her that a man, acquitted of murder, is guilty of killing his wife. Starring: Shelly Hawk and Tom Mason.
11.45 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to. 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

Kapilku contest
AUGUST 18: Kapilku will hold the Little Mr and Ms Philippines, Kuwait, contest at Showbiz Pizza place, Salmiya. This coincides with Araw ng Mga Bata (Children's Day). For details contact Jojo Medrano, AVP, welfare and special projects, VCP Rosafe Austria or VP Sarah Macarimbang — Tel: 483447.

Kapilku meeting
THERE will be an officers meeting on Tuesday at Far East Restaurant at 8.30 pm. Topics to be discussed are: Palaro awarding ceremony on Aug 4 at Keifan; Little Mr & Mrs Philippines Kuwait '89; Kapilku night on Sept 1; and Philippine Day on Sept 8.

Konkani drama
AUG 11: A Konkani drama entitled "Batthi Ani Bazaar," directed by Pascoal Rodrigues will be held at the Indian Arts Circle, Fumaitees at 10 am and 4 pm. Gate passes are available at Raja Stores and Alex Martins Shop.

Bangladesh Library
AUGUST 4, (Friday): A meeting of life-long/founder members of the Bangladesh Library will be held at 5 pm at the embassy premises to form a Library Committee. All life-long members are requested to attend the meeting.

D'Assisi Evening
AUG 1: D'Assissi Association will hold their social evening at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The highlights of the evening will be the crowning of D'Assisi Queen. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide the music. For more information contact Joe Jack Ferns on 5644178, Henry 3717346 or contact A.M.Fine Armst, Shop No.34, Al Karnak Super Market, near GPO, Kuwait.

Tivim Centre
OCT 26: Tivim Centre's Breeze '89 is going to hit the floors of Ramada Al Salam Hotel New Ballroom at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music. Lot of surprises await you. For further information contact the organisers.

United Goans
AUG 3: Summerbelle '89 is about to happen. United Goans Centre present "Top Ranks and Stepping Stones" in a music saturated evening at the Tent SAS Hotel. Crowning of Summerbelle, various competitions, etc. to keep you on your toes. For details contact: Moses 2454266, Joe 5655140 Anicet 2439249 after 6 pm.

Kalpak exhibition
SEPT 15: Women's wing of Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts at the Indian embassy hall from 3 pm to 8 pm. Those interested to show their own creation, please contact on telephone Nos: 5632708/4316737/5626620.

Sargavedi's Saakshi
AUG 3, (Thursday): Sargavedi, the cultural wing of Kuwait Kerala Cultural Congress, on the eve of Nehru Centenary celebrations, will be staging one of the most popular Malayalam social plays — Saakshi, at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium at 6.30 pm.

Written by Varughese Paul directed by Jayan Pattathu and co-directed by Miss Shirley John, the characters are represented by Baby Thomas, C.C. Josekutty, Ninan Thangalathil, Emmanuel, Babychan, Mrs Mary Sebastian, Mrs Annamma Kurian, Miss Shirley John and Miss Shiny John. Lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music direction Viswalal. Lead singers are Unnikrishnan and Mrs Lekshmi Vijayakumar.

Fit for life
LADIES' Keep Fit classes at La Palma Fitness Centre at the Kuwait International on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Free use of the pool after each session plus free use of the sauna on Tuesdays. Also judo, karate and taekwondo classes. Individual coaching for tennis and swimming available. Garden poolside barbeque every Friday afternoon. Recreation facilities include bowling, snooker and health club with sauna, steam bath and plunge pool. Telephone Paul or Vivienne at: 2530000/8050.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait International
LA PALMA: Presents a culinary trip around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Ext 8166.

Failaka: Rooftop restaurant overlooking Kuwait's picturesque coastline. Offers international cuisine and elegant surroundings. Live entertainment during dinner. Closed on Friday. Ext. 8012.

Garden Pool: Relax and enjoy our poolside barbeque event every Friday afternoon.

La Patisserie: Offers an extensive selection of pastries, oven fresh bread, savouries, exotic juices and ice creams. Also serves Continental breakfast. Pianist in the evenings. Ext. 8014.

At the SAS Hotel
VISIT the Far East with SAS. Relish the wide variety of authentic Chinese delicacies served in a very elegant surrounding the Peacock Room. Open for lunch and dinner. For reservati, call 5657000 ext 403 or 352.

Try some new Italian specialities served in a very cozy Italian setting — Bistretto at the SAS. We also serve a delicious selection of Continental and Arabic dishes. Open daily, breakfast lunch and dinner. We serve brunch every Friday.

Welcome on board Al Boom. Dine on our delicious mezzeh buffet. Dinner daily and lunch every Thursdays and Saturdays. For reservation, call 5657000 ext 403 or 540.

Clock at the SAS club. The only drive-in restaurant in Kuwait offer wide varieties of fast food specialities.

At the Kuwait Plaza
TEMPTING lunch and and dinner. A wide variety of all sorts of delicious, home-made and sumptuous dishes with real Lebanese mezzeh and delights of Arabic and French sweets plus fruits of the season.

A unique opportunity to try the dish you like most. It is indeed special lunch or dinner to suit everybody's taste, for only KD2.995.

Also at Al Dallah coffee shop the breakfast with a difference for KD0.995. American, Continental and Arabic breakfast. Enjoy our variety of food daily with Plaza special touch from 6.00 am till 11.00 am.

Italian dinner: Let us take you to heart of Rome while you are in the heart of Kuwait a special ambience with exotic delicious and Italian dishes prepared before you.

Delights of Arabic ice-cream and jumbo sandwiches at Loulwah corner "Le Cafe de Paris" with traditional Arabic music played by the famous oud player Fawazi Jamal. Unique surroundings on the edge of Al Muthanna shopping centre. Open all day long.

At the Holiday Inn
MANGO WEEK — UPTO July 31: Come and taste the sweetest mumbo jumbo of delicious mango to make your day complete.

At the Coffee Shop: A variety of Continental and Oriental cuisine to suit everyone's taste for lunch or dinner at KD5.000 per pax and half price for children.

Al Andalus: Thursday — Arabian Night. Savour the exotic food especially prepared for the night. Our local entertainers provide wonderful music.

Family brunch: Friday — A wholesale day for the children. Bring them along and enjoy entertainment which includes Walt Disney cartoon characters and magic by the great magician. Prizes an surprises await each kid. Price KD5.000 for adults, and half per kid.

At the swimming pool: From 8.30 pm have a great night out by the pool to soothe the summer heat. Barbecue, music, games, prizes and surprises await each one. Bring your family and friends and savour our delicious sharazad barbecue, at KD5.500 per pax and KD2.750 per child.

Meridien Hotel
SWEET watermelon promotion in Al Fingan, featuring kinds of melon, until August

Legal Clinic

ADVICE FROM OUR KUWAITI LAWYER KHALID TAHER

IF you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Taher areplies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. If you have any doubts please call 4813566 Ext 285 between 12 noon and 6 pm.

MY wife and I work in the private sector, earning a combined salary of KD325 per month. I have a son from my first marriage in India. My first wife died some years ago. Now, as there is no one to look after my son, I want to bring him here. I am not eligible under the salary requirement to sponsor my son. Is there an alternative remedy to get a dependant visa?

Z. George

YOU'VE asked three questions. I've answered the first one this week, and will deal with the others in subsequent columns. There is no alternative. A parent must be eligible, under the salary requirements, to sponsor a dependant. Perhaps, you could approach the immigration department and ask them for a visa on humanitarian grounds.

* * *

IS a private sector company bound to pay extra leave salary for haj vacation? I performed haj this year and took 25 days leave. Will my company deduct it from annual leave or treat it as extra haj leave according to the private sector law.

Delwar

THE private sector law does not define haj leave. However, it is a common practice for most private companies to grant 15 days extra leave for haj to employees who have completed five years service or more. This depends on the discretion of each company.

* * *

I CAME to Kuwait in 1980 and work as a welder. I've worked for my present employer for five years. Now, I want a release but he refused and threatened me with deportation. Can I take up the matter with the court as I have completed three years service with him under the new rules?

Name withheld on request

IF you have completed three years, you can ask for a release, but the employer can refuse to give it. Any transfer of residence must be done with the knowledge and acceptance of both the present and new employers. You seek the help of the labour welfare office at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. If they can't resolve the matter, they will refer your case to court.

An alternative would be to cancel your present visa and return to Kuwait on a new work permit, which can be obtained by the employer who wants to give you a job.

* * *

I'VE obtained a job with a government corporation, which has agreed to give me a new visa. But they have told me that I must cancel the present visa to obtain the new one; they said 'no one can apply for a new visa for a person holding a valid residence.' Is this correct? Can I obtain a new visa before cancelling my present visa in the light of my case history, which I have given?

Thomas?

YOU have to cancel the present visa to get a new visa; a person can't hold two valid visas at one time.

* * *

MY relative, who is a dress-maker, signed a two-year contract six months ago and came to Kuwait on her expenses. Now, her employer terminated her contract verbally and told her he would cancel her visa to repatriate her. Is it possible for her to get a release for transfer of residence? Can she claim end of service benefits because she was terminated?

T.R.

IF she has not completed three years service with the present employer, she can't get a release under the new rules issued in March this year. A transfer of residence can be done only if an employee works continuously for three years with one employer, or has resided in Kuwait on a work permit for 10 consecutive years.

End of service benefits are given to employees who work for five years or more.

As you said, absence from work for seven days, whatever the cause, gives an employer the legal right to dismiss an employee.

Perhaps, you could find a sponsor who can give a new work permit to your relative.

WE are the employees of a big corporation in Kuwait. Previously, we were given double time pay on all government holidays. This year, our company paid us only single rate overtime? Did they violate the labour law?

They also deduct KD20 each time they renew our visas. They also include government holidays with our annual leave. Please clarify.

Employees

THERE are eight official holidays: Hijra New Year (one); Ascension Day (one); Eid Al Fitr (two); Eid Al Adha (two); Prophet's Birthday (one); National Day (one). On official holidays, an employee must be paid the normal way plus an extra day's wages if he is asked to work by the employer.

The official holidays are separate from annual leave. A labourer is entitled to 14 days leave each year after completing one year service and 21 days leave annually after completing five years service.

A labourer may work overtime, provided he has a written order from the employer. Overtime is paid for every additional hour; overtime payment is normal wage plus atleast 25 per cent, depending on whether the labourer is on a monthly, weekly or daily wages. If an employee works on official holidays, he is entitled to get the normal wage plus an extra days's wages.

It is common practice for employees to bear the cost of renewing residence visas, which are considered to be personal documents.

The question of raising salaries depends on the company management, which decides when to give a raise and to whom.

* * *

MY contract was terminated by the company and I'll leave the company on August 31, 1989. I have a new job in Denmark, starting on September 4, 1989. I am told that I will not be able to leave before one week to 10 days after the last working day so that the company can finish my payments. I will submit all the necessary papers one month before the last working day. Is the delay legal?

2. How is holiday pay calculated — on the basis of 30 days or 26 days.

P. Jacobsen

1. THE law does not touch on the minimum/maximum period during which a company must finalise payment after an employee's termination. Normally, the process of visa cancellation and payments is done after the expiry of the contract — that is the last working day. It takes between a week to 10 days to complete formalities.

2. The holiday pay is calculated on the basis of 26 days, excluding Fridays.

* * *

SUB: Status of people who sub-let a part of a building from a tenant. The building was sub-let by the permission of the owner on a five-year contract. Now, the original tenant has left the building.

1) Can we continue to stay on an agreement made with the first renter?

2) Do I have to increase the rent? Can the landlord force me to increase the rent?

3) Can the landlord force me to leave?

Our agreement was with the original tenant. Now, the landlord wants us to vacate or rent the entire building on a higher rent, which is not acceptable to us.

Name withheld

IF the building was sub-let with the consent of the landlord, you can continue to stay in the building on the present rent. The landlord can't force you to either increase the rent or vacate the apartment. But don't give him a chance to find an excuse to evict you. You must pay the rent on time. If he does not accept the rent, you can deposit it in the court.

* * *

WE have a bounced cheque in our possession. The person who issued the cheque bought some goods from our company and we can't find him because he has changed the place of residence and office. How can we take legal action to get our money?

A.R.A.

IF he is a non-Kuwaiti, the first step should be to prevent him from leaving the country. Issuing a dud cheque is a punishable offence. You must file a case against him, giving the last address he had given you. And the court will trace him.

* * *

I STARTED working in Kuwait in December 1985 with an employer other than my employer. When my visa expired in 1987, it was transferred to my employer's sponsorship for another two years.

1) Am I exempted from the present labour law of completing a maximum of three years service?

Am I entitled to full payments like vacation, indemnity, free air ticket etc. if I voluntarily resign?

I want to transfer to another company. Am I still entitled to full indemnity and other benefits?

G. Molina

1) IT is an offence to work with someone other than your sponsor. Also, you did not mention the number of the previous visa. If you were on visa No. 20 and transferred to No. 18, then the duration of service will be taken into consideration from the date of getting the work permit.

2/3 Free air ticket etc. depends on your contract. If it has been mentioned, then you are entitled to get it. If you resign, and have worked for under five year, you're not entitled to end of service benefits (indemnity). You can claim the vacation salary, if you have not taken leave.

If you are on a fixed-period contract (two years or three years), you cannot leave before completing it. If you do, you'll have to pay damages to the employer. However, if you are on an "unlimited period contract" (the duration of service is not specified), then you can resign, giving 15 days notice.

* * *

I HAVE been in Kuwait since 1985 and will be completing four year's service. I'm not interested in renewing the contract.

1) Can the company renew my contract without my knowledge?

2) How many months in advance should the company ask me if I am interested in renewing the contract?

3) If the company gives me a release, can I transfer my residence?

JPA

YOU seem to be on an unlimited period contract. A contract is considered renewed if a person continues to work for an employer after completing the first contract. The question of asking an employee to renew the contract does not arise, unless one party wants to end the contract. In this case, either party — employer or employee — must give 15 days notice.

A transfer of residence depends on the acceptance of both the present and the new employer. It also depends on the acceptance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. If you get a release, only the ministry can decide whether they will transfer your residence or not.

* * *

(Case history given). Questions:

1) CAN we go out legally, without being charged with deportation, since our old passport contians an expired visa in it?

2) Can we come to Kuwait if we are deported with a new visa and a new passport?

3) Although we have a new visa, can we transfer to the other company as we have worked for three years?

C.S.

1/2 If you pay the fine for not extending the visa and obtain exit permits to leave the country, you can leave the country on the old passport. However, if you are caught by the police, and deported, you'll have to get a pardon from the Interior Ministry to re-enter Kuwait.

3) You, perhaps, obtained a new visa because the previous one could not be transferred, so the question of transfer does not arise.

KAC profits exceed KD15.6m

Lower operational costs

KUWAIT, July 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), has achieved record profits of more than KD15.6 million during the fiscal year ending last June 30 compared to only KD3.2 million in the previous year, KAC Board Chairman Ahmad Hamad Al Mishari announced today.

IN an interview with a local daily, Mishari emphasised that this remarkable increase in profits was obtained from operating revenues which were running at loss in the past.

Capability

KAC's investments also contributed considerably to making the record profit, Mishari said. He disclosed that KAC was seeking the consent of Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi on allowing the corporation to start allocating funds for replacement of its aeroplanes due to be carried out over the coming few years.

He predicted that KAC would be capable of financing the purchase of new aircraft without any exhaustion of the state's budget or resorting to commercial borrowing.

Mishari said the buying of new airplanes might go smoothly through making use of revenues of selling present old aircraft and by exploiting "consumption funds" and "replacement allocations" in case it is approved by the finance minister.

The official stated that KAC had spent over the past ten years KD30 million on training of national cadres, noting that 44 per cent of the corporation's work-force at present are Kuwaitis.

"All co-pilots in KAC are Kuwaiti nationals," Mishari disclosed. He pointed out that the corporation was pursuing the policy of rationalising expenditure which contributed to lessening operational costs.

Cabinet reviews foreign messages

KUWAIT, July 30, (KUNA): The Council of Ministers today decided that Wednesday and Thursday will be public holidays to mark the advent of the new Hijra (Islamic calendar) year.

The decision was taken during a regular cabinet weekly session held today under Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Following the session, Planning Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi extended felicitations to HH the Amir from the people of Kuwait on the occasion, wishing the Muslim nation a prosperous and happy New Year.

The acting premier acquainted the session with the nature of the present visit to Kuwait by Gambian President Dawada Jawara for talks with HH the Amir on means to foster bilateral ties, Afro-Arab co-operation and other issues of mutual concern.

The council, according to its official, spokesman, welcomed the Gambian president and entourage in Kuwait, wishing them a fruitful sojourn.

Dr Awadi added that the cabinet was informed of the message received by HH the Amir from the President of Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov as well as that received from Yugoslav President Yanz Durnofisk which included an invitation to HH to take part in the ninth summit of leaders of Non-Aligned countries, scheduled to convene in Belgrade next September 4.

The council was also apprised of the correspondence exchanged between HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Ruler of Ajman Sheikh Hammad Ben Rashid Al Nuaimy dealing with co-operation to prop up the Ajman University College of Science and Technology in view of its important role in advancing technical education in the region, the spokesman said.

Brazil visit

Dr Awadi indicated that the session was briefed on the message addressed by HH the Crown Prince and Premier to the President of Brazil in reply to his message which contained an invitation to His Highness to visit Brasilia for talks on all-round co-operation between the two countries. HH the Crown Prince has welcomed the invitation and promised to make the visit at the earliest date, the spokesman explained.

The cabinet also took note of the messages exchanged between HH the Crown Prince and Premier and Prime Minister of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan involving organisation of an Uzbek Week in Kuwait and a Kuwaiti Week in Uzbekistan in manifestation of the excellent relations binding Kuwait and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed then reported to the council on the outcome of his talks here last week with Djibouti's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi which dwelt on bilateral co-operation in the fields of labour and social affairs, Awadi said.

The cabinet, he added, approved recommendations by board of directors of the Ports Public Authority which amended fees charged at Shuaiba Port to standardise them with those at Shuwaikh besides amending the ministerial decision determining amounts in return for utilisation of storage facilities of the corporation.

Earthquake observatory to open within 16 months

Full environmental research planned

By Jamal Amin

KUWAIT'S first earthquake observatory is expected to go online within a period of 16 months, according to Dr Dhari Al Ajmi, director of Environmental and Geology Sciences Department at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

The proposed station will consist of two major components, the first, a reception station to be located at KISR headquarters, while the second, an earthquake observatory with transmission facilities linked to the receiving station.

The location of the observatory is the subject of an ongoing study, the official said and added that the main object of the observatory is to co-operate with the already existing similar stations situated in Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia designed to monitor, predict and measure the scale of earthquakes.

Speaking about the department's Five-Year Plan on environmental research studies, Ajmi said that the future plans include research studies on four major topics, the desert environment; marine; environment; environment planning and studies concerning the coastal areas. He said that the main project concerning the desert is a study aimed at finding methods to control the movement of sand in a bid to preserve the natural aspects of the desert environment. He added that the research will include improving methods to protect and preserve desert areas which have not been hit by desertification and also arriving at practical methods to restrict factors that help desertification. The plans also include designing scientific methods to control movement of sands towards vital installations.

The second research concerning marine environment aims at evaluating oil and non-oil pollutants at sea. To achieve this, a study will be made to trace petroleum compounds in sea waters. The study will also include evaluating and tracing industrial and non-oil pollutants in the sea. Additionally, an evaluation of the effect of oil and non-oil pollutants on the marine environment, will be carried out. The feed-back obtained from these studies will be transmitted to relevant government authorities, the official said.

Effects

The research studies on environmental planning and urban environment, aim at evaluating the effects of the various development activities on the urban environment in Kuwait Ajmi said. He added that recommendations will be made on the necessary steps to control the adverse effects of these activities on the urban environment in Kuwait. The study is envisaged to determine the damages resulting from human activities on environment in the residential areas. The study will also propose the long term measure that should be followed in the future to protect the urban environment. Plans relating to coastal areas will include finding ways to address correct planning methodologies in these areas.

About research studies carried out by the Environmental and Geology Sciences Department at KISR, Ajmi said that a number of important research studies were initiated over the past 7 years. Pivotal among these was on measuring the oceanographic and chemical features of the components of the marine environment in Kuwait. It also completed the first and second stages of a study on oil and non-oil pollutants on the marine environment. Another study carried out on the characteristics of Kuwait's coastal areas aimed at obtaining information for acquaculture.

The study helped in determining the best areas for fish in Kuwait's territorial waters. The department also carried out a study on organic and metal pollutants on some famous variety of fish in the Arabian Gulf waters in co-operation with Basra University in Iraq.

12 Lebanese injured leave

Twelve Lebanese victims of their country's civil war and their companions left here yesterday for West Beirut via Damascus after completing treatment in Kuwaiti hospitals.

The wounded Lebanese had arrived here mid May within a group of 72 who all came from west Beirut.

Acting Public Health Undersecretary Ibrahim Al Mudhaf and Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Badra saw the Lebanese off.

Mudhaf noted that 29 wounded Lebanese were still receiving treatment in Kuwait. 37 injured Lebanese from both sectors of Beirut had left the country in batches over the last two months.

Parents responsible

Youth without direction: psychologist

THE abnormal behaviour of a section of youth, their problems, their harassment of the public and other deviations is the subject of an interview conducted by *'Seyassah'* among a number of senior officials.

Harassment is attributed to many reasons, primarily being the fact that youths are not directed to properly channel their energies into beneficial fields during their leisure periods, Dr Jasem Al Khawaja, a professor at Kuwait University, Department of Psychology said.

He added that it is a common sight to see such misguided youth harassing girls and spending most of their time outside their houses just to overcome the feeling of boredom. Another reason prompting these youth to undertake harassing others is the fact that friends depict such acts as very recreational. He also berated girls who encourage such behaviour in youth.

Khawaja placed the onus of responsibility on parents for not directing their children towards beneficial fields and praised the government's efforts in this respect. The absence of parental guidance and censorship encourages youths towards deviation, Khawaja added. He commented that censorship of children should begin at an early age and should where necessary be imposed by force.

Influence

The official considered television as another important contributor to this malice and described it as a bad influence on youths. Many youths have been known to emulate acts of violence, vandalism and other anti-social acts depicted on TV, the official said.

Dr Latifa Al Rjaib, assistant undersecretary for social care at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour said that 65 per cent of total cases recorded of harassment and vandalism occurred during holidays — especially during the summer season. The ministry had recorded the highest rate of 438 deviations among youths in June 1989. The majority of these misguided youth came from families where there was disharmony among parents, or the parents were divorced and in a minority of cases these stemmed from a lack of parental love, Rjaib added.

Dr Issa Jasem, director of the Educational Research Centre said that it is obvious to see the difference between the education of present-day children with those of the older generation. The rapid changes witnessed by the country after the discovery of oil has changed the traditional styles of the Kuwaiti family towards their children, the official said.

"Family education, in the past, was done on a joint basis" Jasem said and added that families these days tend to entrust the role of bringing up their children to maids which is having a negative impact on children, youth and society. He advocated restricting the role of maids in the day-to-day handling of children.

Yousif Ahmad Al Tarrah, director of the Educational Information Centre said that a larger number of women taking up work outside the home have contributed to the Kuwaiti family becoming highly dependent on house maids. A study conducted by the Ministry of Planning said that 57.5 per cent of children's Arabic language are affected by foreign house maids.

Gold medal for Kuwait

KUWAIT, July 30, (KUNA): Director of the Kuwait Science Club's main centre Amir Ahmed said that Kuwait has won a gold medal in astrology at the 2nd International Science Fair, currently taking place in the French city of Brest.

Amir Ahmed told KUNA today that the recent achievement by the science club is the fruit of HH the Amir's directives, encouragement and support for the flourishment of science in the country.

He added that the main purpose of Kuwait's participation in the fair was to exhibit its role in scientific advancement, to acquaint Kuwaiti youth with the importance of sciences and to introduce to them latest discoveries and creations of different nations.

Special squad to monitor security in Ahmadi

By Nawaf Al Hamali

COMMANDER of the Ahmadi Police Patrols Department, Maj. Mohammad Al Qahtani announced that the department has recently set up a special squad to monitor the governorate's security during the night. The squad carries out its duties through several checkpoints set-up at various areas particularly during the summer season in order to prevent thefts and robberies.

Another special squad has also been formed for combatting dangerous practices like people hunting for pigeons in residential areas and near oil installations besides solving problems resulting from stray camels and sheep which hinder traffic in main streets and highways.

The squad has succeeded in reducing the number of such violations, Qahtani said.

The official added that the establishment of the Patrols Command has resulted in reducing the security burdens on other security departments in the governorate. The police patrols main duty is to accompany official motorcades of guests visiting the Ahmadi governorate besides assisting in organising traffic, apprehending suspects and carrying out checking campaigns inside the governorates borders. He said that the governorates securitymen are mostly embarrassed by stray camels and sheep which hinder traffic movements particularly on motorways and cause tragic accidents, he said. To solve this problem, a special squad was set up. The police patrols work round the clock in order to preserve security in the governorate, Qahtani said.

He added that the squad arrests those young men who are found loitering around at late hours and who cannot provide any logical reasons and refers them to the police station in the area.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEHIND every argument is someone's ignorance — *Louis Brandeis, US Supreme Court Justice (1856-1941).*

PRESS REVIEW

Al Akhbar: An Egyptian daily expressed anger and regret over Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's statement during a meeting with Israeli rabbis claiming that Israel could enjoy peace with the Arab countries without having to pull out from the occupied Arab lands or halting its settlement operations in those lands.

Al Akhbar, writing editorially, called on the United States, which affirms in every occasion that it is partner in the search of peace in the Mideast region, to react positively to such an irresponsible stance by Shamir.

The paper also called on Shamir himself, to halt his provocative statements which mainly hamper any attempt to achieve peace in the region.

Concluding, the paper said that Shamir's statement actually is a challenge to US President George Bush's recent call on Israel to abandon its dream of greater Israel and stop building new settlements in the occupied territories. (KUNA)

* * *

Al Rai Al Aam: Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam warned that the increasing number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel means that there is a change in the Soviet policies toward the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to the Soviet Union's announcement of allowing 300,000 Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, the paper said that such a number of Soviet Jewish emigrants were not announced openly before to avoid "Arab reaction."

It added that the open announcement of this number means that the Soviet Union has the desire "to expand the economic and technological co-operation" with the Zionist entity.

The Soviet Union is giving "priority to its new relations with the United States, and in the process disregarding its friendly ties and co-operation with Arab states, which stopped importing enormous quantity of weapons and military equipments as tranquility is prevailing in the Middle East," the paper pointed out. (KUNA)

* * *

Al Watan: Kuwaiti daily urged the Arabs to make a move toward solving the Lebanese crisis, wondering "What will history say about us if we did not move now"?

The Kuwaiti paper referring to the destruction in Lebanon, asked if this meant that the Arabs have announced "their absolute incapability to save Lebanon and does this mean that those concerned in Lebanon have announced their full political bankruptcy?"

"Beirut is emptying... bleeding.. dying.. words alone are useless... the six-man committee tried and the tripartite committee is trying and before them many have tried but Lebanon is disappearing under the rubbles of bombs .." the paper said.

The daily asked how the Arabs could save Lebanon "if the era of solutions and settlements have ended," proposing an emergency Arab summit to find a solution to the Lebanese ordeal. (KUNA).

* * *

The Mail *on Sunday (conservative): on the Israeli abduction in* Lebanon:

"Those who believe that the war against international terrorism is a war which can be won by conventional means are fooling themselves. So when Israeli commandos kidnap the revolutionary leader of the fanatical Hizbollah in Beirut you can be sure they have a dossier on him which will make the blood run cold... our diplomats have had 928 days to do something about Terry Waite (the Archbishop of Canterbury's missing envoy) and have utterly failed.

"Of course, it would be nice if the problems of the world could be solved by an ambassadorial invitation to tea. Maybe one day that will happen. But until it does, we still need those prepared to take tough decisions on tough issues. At that the Israelis are really rather good."

* * *

The Observer *(liberal) on the same:*

"There aren't many rules left in Lebanon after nearly 15 years of civil war, but it is hard to see how Israel could believe it is acceptable for a state to order the kidnap of a foreign national on foreign soil.... where the rule of law no longer applies, as it certainly does not in Lebanon, the true test of acceptable behaviour is twofold: does it accord with our basic moral code, and is it likely to have a positive outcome?... the abduction of Sheikh Obeid is not likely to reduce the determination of Israel's sworn enemies to continue their campaign of hatred and killing... (such actions) do nothing to encourage progress on the all-important issue, with which Sheikh Obeid has no connection whatsoever: the future of the Palestinian people and the occupied territories. Hizbollah is a tiresome irritant in this context, and Israel should not allow acts of derring-do to divert it from the far tougher task of slow diplomatic negotiation toward a resolution of the Palestinian question."

* * *

Al Ittihad: A UAE newspaper believed the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising would continue no matter what techniques Israel used to end it.

"Whatever tactics the Israeli enemy comes out with to split the Palestinian ranks, the uprising with its youth, women and children will remain the symbol of stone, force and determination of the Palestinian people to liberate their land and establish their independent state," the Abu Dhabi-based *Al Ittihad* said.

The paper was commenting on Israeli media reports that Zionist authorities have ordered a "gang of their collaborators" to attack Palestinians in the occupied territories, where more than 600 Arabs have died from Israeli gunfire since December 1987.

"The goal of such an order is very clear. Israel wants to show there are Palestinians who are against the uprising and support its policy, especially Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election proposals," it said.

"No doubt the Palestinian uprising has exhausted the Israeli occupation forces. These forces, as they have sought help by Zionist settlers to attack Palestinians, are now seeking a clique of collaborators supplied with Israeli arms with that same goal in mind. (KUNA)

* * *

Jordan Times: A Jordanian newspaper said that Arab efforts in Lebanon were dead and endorsed a Soviet proposal for an international peace conference on the battered country.

"Now it seems that the Arab efforts which rightfully gained world-wide support have reached a dead end," said the English-language daily *The Jordan Times* in an editorial.

It said the only course left was Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal for an international conference on Lebanon under the auspices of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. (Reuter)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1602 — Marshal Biron of France is executed for treason.
1658 — Aurangzeb is proclaimed Mogul Emperor in India.
1789 — Austrian and Russian troops under Francis Duke of Coburg and Count Alexander Suvorov defeat Turks at Focshani in Romania.
1812 — Venezuelan Republic falls to Spanish force, and Francisco De Miranda is arrested.
1919 — Germany adopts Weimar Constitution.
1926 — Britain and West Germany sign 10-year agreement on nuclear co-operation.
1962 — Britain agrees to establish wider Malaysian federation.
1964 — US Ranger 7 spacecraft transmits to earth first closeup pictures of the moon.
1971 — US Apollo 15 astronauts take six and one-half hour ride on Moon in electric car.
1974 — Ceasefire agreement takes effect between Turkey and Greece in fighting on Cyprus.
1978 — Gunman shoots his way into Iraqi Embassy in Paris and holds hostages for several hours before surrendering to French police.
1986 — Britain's cabinet unanimously supports Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's resistance to stiff sanctions against South Africa.
1988 — Pier jammed with thousands of festival travellers collapses at ferry terminal in northwest Malaysia, killing at least 30 people and injuring about 370.

Flood victims scramble for cooked food in Bangladesh, whose short history has been plagued by some of the worst disasters that man and nature can devise.

Bangladesh battles for survival

Inundated with misery

PEOPLE wage a daily battle for survival throughout this impoverished nation, whose short history has been plagued by some of the worst disasters that man and nature can devise.

Floods, droughts, tornadoes and hurricanes are frequent and fatal visitors.

Overloaded river ferries capsize with a regularity that tends to trivalise the tragedy, drowning dozens and sometimes hundreds of people at a time.

Strikes and riots by political parties, trade unions and Muslim fundamentalists recur virtually every week. Usually, they culminate in confrontations with police in which a score or more protesters are injured and a few die.

But for most of the 110 million Bangladeshis, life goes on, albeit marginally.

The average annual income is $160 a year. Eighty per cent of the people live below the poverty line, which means they can't obtain minimum daily nutritional needs. At least 70 per cent are illiterate.

"We are dying minute by minute," said Dhaka University sociology professor Rangalal Sen. "The question is, how are people still surviving? We are at subsistence level or below, but there is an inner strength of the people who want to survive."

His colleague, Syed Ahmed Khan, was more critical.

"Politically, the country is not surviving. Economically, the country is not surviving," Khan said. "The individual survives because they will not allow (themselves) to be killed. Foreigners will not allow us to die. They will supply us with food, with old clothes. We will not be allowed to be killed. We will not be allowed to live. We will be allowed to survive."

Mohammad Nobu, a 25-year-old farmer, used to think he was luckier than most people. His one acre (one-half hectare) of land at the hamlet of Hargaj, 25 miles (40 kilometres) northwest of Dhaka, provided enough rice and vegetables for his family. He usually kept a cow and some chickens — to sell, not to eat, because money lasts longer than meat.

But last fall he lost his rice crop to floods that submerged three-fourths of the nation and killed an estimated 1,400 people.

His next crop, the winter lentils and vegetables, was washed away by heavy rains.

In April he lost his spring rice to tornadoes that killed another 1,400 people, including his mother and aunt. He said the storm also destroyed his tin-roofed bamboo hut and blew away "a big cow that I could have sold for 5,000 takas," — $152.

Nobu, his wife and two small children now subsist on doles: 15 kilogrammes (33 pounds) of rice from the government each month plus 30 kilogrammes (66 pounds) of flour a month from a private relief organisation.

"It's all right," he said. "We are surviving. We are waiting for Allah's mercy."

The mercy of wealthier nations also keeps Bangladesh going, to the tune of $2 billion a year — an amount equal to the country's annual operating budget.

Bangladeshis and foreigners alike worry about the country becoming too dependent on handouts.

"We have to prove to the world that Bangladeshis something more than a poor country," President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said recently while speaking of his desire to modernise his nation.

In the meantime, the former army general, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, has done a masterful job of marshalling international support.

"Western donors are not unhappy with Ershad because he's provided stability and there's been a vast improvement in human rights," one foreign observer said, speaking on condition he was not identified further.

Bangladesh has had nine presidents since its 1971 independence war with Pakistan, when 3 million people died. The only two presidents who lasted longer than a few months were assassinated. Leaders have never been installed by popular election.

Foreign aid officials said Bangladesh has become such a popular cause that they sometimes try to dissuade their governments from pumping more money into an aid pipeline that has a five-year backlog and a dispersal rate of 18 per cent.

These officials, requesting anonymity, acknowledged there is corruption, but they said the biggest problems are inefficiency and lack of local currency for projects requiring matching funds.

Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League that has been at the forefront of the campaign to oust Ershad, warns that Bangladesh must wean itself from foreign aid and achieve "economic emancipation."

The key, she said in an interview, is a literacy campaign that would generate a better-skilled work force for an export-oriented economy.

But many parents cant't afford the luxury of sending their children to the free government schools. Children help earn money.

On a single-lane, black-top road about 85 miles (135 kilometres) southwest of Dhaka, 9-year-old Asiran was drenched to the skin in a morning cloudburst as she helped her father pull a cart stacked with firewood twice as tall as her.

The father, Amir Ali, hires the cart for 10 takas (30 cents) a day in the city of Khulna. Setting out at 6 am, the barefoot father and daughter pull the empty cart five miles (eight) kilometres) to Kaiyati village, where they compete with other father-and-child teams to be hired as porters by the firewood dealers.

If Ali and Asiran are successful, they'll make a profit of 50 takas ($1.50) by the time they've unloaded the firewood in Khulna shortly before sundown.

Ali said he gets work about 25 days a month, which brings him about 1,250 takas ($38). But it would take 1,350 takas ($41) to provide his family of four with three meals a day — meals that consist only of rice and vegetables.

The family skimps to make the food last longer and to set aside a little money for clothing and shelter.

Throughout Bangladesh, huts made of bamboo spring up on idle plots until the owner decides to use the land. Then the squatters look for another location.

"It's absolutely temporary. We don't know when we'll be ousted," said Mohammad Younis, who heads one of abut 30 families living rent-free in a shantytown on the outskirts of Khulna.

Younis manages the canteen at a local police station. His yearly salary is about $450 — nearly triple the national average income — but he said it's not enough to buy or rent a place and still feed the 10 people in his extended family.

The government has embarked on a nationwide programme to create new villages for landless people. So far about 13,000 little bamboo houses have been built under this project, according to Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

Niloy, seven miles (12 kilometres) southeast of Khulna, is one of the new villages. Twenty-one families moved in about two months ago. Each was given a tiny plot of land next to a house on the bank of the Shalnari river, but the residents complained the river was salty and plants weren't growing right.

(AP — Dhaka)

Opposition aims for power

Confusion on Japan's horizon

"PASSENGERS of Japan, please fasten your seat belts — this plane is entering turbulent airspace."

Many political analysts, including commentator Naohiro Amaya in Tokyo Shimbun newspaper, see political confusion for Japan in the wake of the ruling party's humiliating defeat in last weekend's upper house elections.

After 34 years of continuous rule, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has lost its majority in the chamber for the first time and faces the possibility of losing power in a general election expected later this year.

The LDP, plagued by financial scandals and voter anger over the inept introduction of a sales tax, is struggling to find a leader to replace Prime Minsiter Sousuke Uno, who announced he would quit this week after being hit with allegations he paid a geisha girl for sex.

The party which guided Japan into becoming the world's second-biggest economy also faces the prospect of vastly increased delays and obstructions in parliament.

The party retains power by virtue of its majority in the lower house. But with opposition parties now in a position to dominate the upper house, parliament will see increased delays and obstructions in the years ahead, analysts say.

"People are underestimating its implications," said Muneyuki Shindo, politics professor at Rikkyo University. "The lower house has the legislative power, but no law can be created without the consent of the upper house."

Thanks largely to widespread public anger over a sales tax introduced by the LDP in April, the opposition now have their best shot at power in decades.

Many political analysts say the opposition parties, led by the Japan Socialist Party, lack credibility, concrete policies and the unity which would be needed to create a coalition ahead of the forthcoming general elections.

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SOUSUKE UNO

"The Socialists have become more pragmatic, they still have not come up with realistic policy alternatives, said Toshihiko Hara, associate professor of political science at Tokai University.

"What are they (the JSP) going to do now? They attacked sales tax and liberalisation of agricultural markets, the JSP has not much choice," said Rikkyo's Shindo.

Some political analysts say they expect there will be a few more changes of administration, perhaps including a spell with the opposition in power before Japan reaches a new political stability.

There is a belief in some circles that the uncertainties could make Japan turn inward, slowing down its emergence as a fully-fledged player on the international scene.

It could also lead to a freeze on further reforms of such sensitive issues as trade and tax.

"After the socialists scored such a victory with their attacks on the sales tax and liberalisation of agricultural market, I am afraid nobody in future will dare change status quo for fear of losing votes," said political analysts Tsukasa Sato.

Other analysts are more optimistic. Althoug some confusion is unavoidable, it will eventually contribute to giving Japan a greater degree of democracy, with the LDP no longer able to reign as arbitrarily as before, they say.

"This situation has opened up possibilities for opposition forces to participate in forming a government ... which requires all parties and politicians to become more competent," said Tsuyoshi Sasaki, politics professor at Tokyo University.

"The JSP will wake up from its fantasy world and face reality if it has to sit in the driving seat. And the LDP will awaken from its arrogance to seriously consider Japan's future," Amaya said.

(Tokyo – Reuter)

Belated praise

Jordan's break key to peace

A YEAR after Jordan abandoned any claim to the occupied West Bank, the apprehension among residents has given way to the feeling that it was a key step towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein's severing of administrative ties on July 31, 1988 in the midst of a Palestiman uprising forced PLO leader Yasser Arafat to fill the vacuum or else abandon his claim to speak for the area's 1.7 million residents.

In the months that followed, Arafat renounced terrorism, gave his long-delayed recognition of Israel's right to exist and formally called for separate Israeli and Palestinian states.

His diplomatic campaign, backed by the spontaneous revolt now 19 months old, drew world-wide response and forced Israel to react with a peace initiative of its own.

"The Jordanian decision of last year prepared the way for a genuine peace settlement," said Dr Saeb Erakat, political scientist at An Jahah University in Nablus on the West Bank.

"It would have been very difficult for the PLO to have waged this diplomatic campaign without Jordan's decision," the Palestinian professor said.

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan along with the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war. Israeli officials privately agree King Hussein's move boosted the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel now proposes letting Palestinians of the occupied territories choose representatives to negotiate limited self-rule.

The atmosphere a year ago was far different. Although Jordanian influence had been fading since Israeli occupation began in 1967, King Hussein's abrupt break created much uncertainty.

The West Bank was part of the Palestine mandate ruled by Britain since World War One. Arab states invaded to crush the infant Jewish state after its creation in 1948 and when fighting ended Jordan controlled the West Bank and half of Jerusalem.

After Israel captured those areas in 1967, Jordan continued to have strong links. The Jordanian dinar remained the dominant currency, students took Jordanian exams and many residents received Jordanian salaries and pensions.

All that happened in jeopardy last July 31. But according to both Israelis and Palestinians, the economic effects have been minor.

"These relations still exist today," said Dr Samir Hazboun, an economist at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

Jordan continues to pay pensions to retired officials and salaries to religious workers. It hinders imports from the West Bank that compete with Jordanian production, but that problem existed before.

The Israeli shekel is replacing the dinar as the locall currency, but that is understandable since Israel no longer suffers from hyperinflation while the dinar has plummeted by about two-thirds of its value over the past year.

West Bank Palestinians continue to receive Jordanian passports and students are sitting Jordanian examinations to get into universities.

The minor effects on daily life have been far overshadowed by the political implications.

Jordan's move clarified the issues. The king abandoned his hope of recovering the West Bank as unrealistic, forcing Israel and the United States to focus directly on Palestinians instead of looking for a deal with Jordan.

"Nobody is talking about the Jordanian option any more," Professor Erakat said. Israelis privately confirm a decline in influence of ageing pro-Jordanian Palestinian leaders on the West Bank.

Palestinians concede any West Bank state will need economic ties with Jordan, but they see that as an association between equals to be negotiated after they win their initial goal of a state.

Most Israeli and Western observers continue to see a role for Jordan in an eventual settlement, but events in the year since Jordan's decision show they believe agreement must first come with the Palestinians. (Occupied Jerusalem – Reuter)

Quote me

"The people have no hang-ups. Nobody worries about roly-polies above their swimming suits — Stella Seifert, discussing Virginian's nudist resort.

* * *

"This is the beginning of the end for Mrs Thatcher." — A Conservative member of the House of Commons.

* * *

"It is outrageous and uncivilised that he should have been taken hostage in the first place." — US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said about Lebanese threat to kill US hostage.

* * *

"I don't believe the television ... I was so angry that I wanted to break it into pieces." — A Chinese factory worker visiting Hong Kong said in a rally to condemn Chinese authorities.

* * *

"You can't hire boy scouts if you want to nail the top smugglers" Woodrow Kirk, customs intelligence chief in Miami said.

* * *

"Every time I opened the door Bob went in. When he went in he managed to recover." — Billy Casper said about Bob Charles victory on the Seniors golf.

* * *

"I'm happy to be here, finally. I was invited 10 years ago but could not come until now." — Pele said after opening the 17th annual Norway Cup in Oslo.

* * *

"Seeing all these fine boys and girls makes me eager to work even harder for youth soccer." — Pele said in Norway.

* * *

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Khorafi signals optimistic note

State revenues expected to rise

FINANCE Minister, Jassem Al Khorafi today predicted that the deficit in the state budget is likely to be less than the official announced figures because of the co-operation of the various government sectors in cutting down expenditure and for an expected improvement in oil prices.

The minister said that the figures released on the budget deficit for the current fiscal year are only projected figures adding that it is likely to fall further exactly like what happened in the previous fiscal year. Khorafi signalled an optimistic note for an expected increase in the state revenues.

He said that the reason for not adding the returns of the country's investments to the revenues is because of the law governing these investments which states that returns of investments should be added to the reserves.

He said that the government policy is not to touch the reserve funds and keep it along with its returns for the future generation.

Khorafi added that the state should not depend upon the state reserves for covering the budget deficit because the amount of the state reserves, different from the future generation reserve is limited and can vanish if we depend upon it without resorting to cutting down our expenses.

The minister said that the state is determined to reduce the expenditures in order to be parallel with the revenues and we as a state and public must bear the consequences.

Khorafi said that most of the government ministries and departments are positively responding with the government policy in reducing expenditures. But he said that we are still exerting more efforts to arrive at the optimal utilisation of the public money.

He said that it is high time now to co-ordinate between the various agencies to achieve this goal. He said that the ministry has begun two years ago an ambitious programme to qualify 6,500 Kuwaiti employees in the financial affairs within a period of five years.

The training programmes will include financial affairs relating to budget and other aspects for both private and public sectors.

He revealed plans to prepare the budgets for two years instead of one for some departments and ministries.

He hinted that if the plans succeed, the state budget will also be prepared for a period of two years.

He also said the intention of preparing the budget for five years mainly to link with the five-year developmental plan.

Khorafi emphasised the fact that the Kuwaiti dinar is stable against all the international currencies because it is linked through a basket of currencies, with major world currencies.

He said that the Manakh crisis has become history now after it was blown out of proportion through much exaggeration.

He said that it is not logical to compare the prices of shares at present with prices that existed earlier.

He said that the involvement among debtors has ended and the solution of the difficult bank loans is in its final stages. He stressed that the difficult loans settlement scheme has proved successful adding that the financial authorities will forge ahead in its implementation.

About charges of public services, Khorafi said that the government does not intend to increase the burden on the public by these charges adding that the main purpose of the charges is to rationalise the use of public services.

He said that "the drop in the state's oil revenues forced us to cut down the public expenditures of which consuming expenditures form a big portion."

He said that after carrying out a study on the public services provided by the state, nominal charges have been imposed on some of them without trying in any way to harm the public particularly the low income group. He added that if "we really wanted or aimed at getting the exact cost of the services, the public would have certainly faced troubles."

He emphasised that the rationalisation of expenditures does not necessarily mean reducing the funds paid by the state.

It aims at utilising these funds in the best way with the best possible returns.

He added that basic services such as health, education and housing will not be affected.

Concerning the issue of imposing charges on medical services, Khorafi said that under the direction of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier, no charges will be imposed without carrying out detailed studies and insure it does not affect low income group. He refused to comment about plans to unify salaries of the government employees at ministries with employees of other government establishments.

Jassem Al Khorafi

KD rate higher against dollar

Wall Street stock prices up

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was higher against the US dollar ending the week at 294.21 fils compared with its week before last closing of 296.49 fils.

The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 487.36 fils compared with its week before last closing of 477.85 fils.

The KD was also lower against the DM ending the week at 157.44 fils compared with its week before last closing of 155.03 fils.

The KD was lower against the SFR ending the week at 182.97 fils compared with its week before last closing of 179.78 fils.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 408.13 fils compared with its week before last closing of 436.01 fils.

The KD was higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As to the KD money market, short term interbank rates traded firmer over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week within 8.81 per cent - 9.31 per cent range compared with 8.68 per cent - 9.12 per cent range the week before last.

While 3-month interbank rates traded within 9.12 per cent - 9.37 per cent range compared with 9.12 per cent - 9.25 per cent range the week before last.

Rates for longer periods traded also firmer within a relatively narrow range of 9.25 per cent - 9.31 per cent and 9.25 per cent - 9.37 per cent for 6 and 12 months respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices moved higher last week. Programme buying, takeover fervour in drug issues and the growing belief that interest rates have dipped, all combined this week to lure investors into the market and drive share to their post crash highs.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2585 and closed higher at 2635, recording a gain of 28 points over the previous week's closing of 2607.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange moved sharply higher last week and broke the psychological barrier of 2300 on the FTSE, its first breaching of that level since before the October 1987 stock market crash.

Recently the market has found itself squeezed higher as institutional liquidity hit record levels while the actual amount of stock in the market went down. Added impetus, with take over speculation and better economic fundamentals have helped push the market higher.

The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2260 and closed higher at 2306, recording a gain of 23 points over the previous week's closing of 2283.

US dollar

The dollar over the previous week continued to trade weak against most major currencies. The weakness of the dollar can mainly be attributed to continued release of US economic data which show the economy slowing, meaning the US Federal Reserve will eventually have to ease its interest rates.

US durable goods orders for the month of June rose 0.3 per cent — versus a forecasted rise of 1.4 per cent — while non-defence orders fell 0.7 per cent. US GNP for the second quarter of 1989 grew 1.7 per cent compared to 3.7 per cent for the first quarter of the same year.

The release of lower than expected US GNP underpinned any strength of the dollar as the data gives further evidence that the US economy is weakening.

As a result of lower mortgage rates, US home sales has been rising. According to the National Association of Retailer (NAR), monthly home resale reported an annual sales of 3.40 million units in June, up 5.9 per cent from May's rate of 3.21 million units.

The monthly increase was the first since home resales rose 5.6 per cent to 3.92 million units in December 1988 compared with the previous month.

June increase was also the largest month-to-month increase since December 1986.

Personal income for the month of June rose 0.3 per cent from its previous month, while disposable income — in constant dollars — rose 0.4 per cent for the same month.

In dollar terms personal income in June amounted to $4,407 billion versus $4,395 billion in May while disposable income for the same month amounted to $3,769 billion versus $3,747 billion in May.

The dollar is seen losing more momentum as expectations of lower US interest rates are mounting. It is believed that the Federal Reserve will have to ease its US monetary policy in the next few weeks, leading to a drop in the Federal funds rate.

A big easing move by the Fed is seen necessary to prevent economic recession, stem the dollar's rise and finally to stabilize dollar — denominated commodity prices.

Accordingly "we expect the dollar in the short-term to trade weak. Furthermore and because of the thin nature of the summer market and the ability of a single large order to move exchange rates, we expect a volatile dollar trading range. As we have seen over the past two and half weeks where the Federal Reserve has been driving Fed funds rate down to 9 per cent, we expect the Fed to ease its rates even further. Accordingly and because of the prospects of lower US interest rates we believe the dollar upside trend will be very much limited, hence the dollar is expected to remain under pressure for the few weeks to come."

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US dollar at $1.6255/65 and closed higher at $1.6525/35, compared to its week before last closing of $1.6170/80.

The pound firmed in the middle of the week following slightly better than expected UK trade figures.

June current account deficit was £1.49 billion after a £1.32 billion May deficit, while June trade deficit came at £1.89 billion after a £1.72 billion deficit in May.

The figures, though larger than in the previous month, may provide evidence that the massive and long-lived shortfalls are finally levelling out. The UK Treasury said the deficit is clearly trending lower, pointing to a continuing upward trend in exports.

Sterling is expected to remain firm, well-underpinned after the UK trade data were no worse than expected and on interest rate differentials. There can be little hope of a base rate cut whilst wage settlements are running in the 9 per cent region. Although, it is expected to remain firm in the near term, there is speculation it may be headed for a downward correction after its recent run up. It is likely to trade in 1.63-1.66 range.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 142.55/65 yen and closed the week higher at 139.12/22 yen compared to its week before last closing of 142.20/30 yen.

Although the yen for most part of the weak traded within its previous week's range.

However around the end of the week, it rebounded as the dollar weakened on release US data, closing the week higher.

Japan's current account surplus for the month of June declined by 33 per cent from a year earlier, which is the fourth consecutive month of declines, accordingly the current account gap is expected to be sharply narrower in the full fiscal year ending March 31.

While Japan's main measure in trade of goods and services declined to $4.12 billion in June from $6.12 billion a year earlier.

Furthermore Japan's trade surplus in goods alone in June shrank by 13 per cent to $6.44 billion from $7.39 billion a year earlier.

Bank of Japan governor Satshi Sumita said that the bank will seek currency stability to better reflect economic fundamentals and will continue strong action in co-operation with other nations in the currency markets when needed. While he said that the recent result of the upper house election fortunately has not caused the yen to weaken significantly.

"The yen is expected to keep its current strength against the dollar for the coming week, accordingly we expect the yen to trade within 138-139 against the dollar."

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.8965/75 marks and closed the week sharply higher at 1.8795/05 marks. The mark strength was a direct result of the dollar weakness due to expectations of lower US interest rates, coupled with typical summer slow activities in the Foreign Exchange Market.

W. German industrial capacity in June rose by 1 per cent to 89 per cent from the level recorded in March. W. German June import prices fell 0.6 per cent on a monthly basis against a rise of 0.2 per cent for the month of May. On the other hand, W. German export prices remained flat for the month of June as compared to 0.3 per cent rise in May.

In its effort to calm the money market, giving signals that interest rates are not likely to rise or to fall in the near term, the Bundesbank has set its latest 28-day repurchase tender at a fixed interest rate of 6.6 per cent. Accordingly, for almost the first time in several months the regular policy-making council meeting (held end of last week) was not accompanied by speculation about Central Bank policy changes.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6350/60 SFR and closed higher at 1.6170/80 SFR, compared to its week before last closing of 1.6490/00 SFR. In its weekly currency report, Union Bank of Switzerland saw interest rate differentials giving the franc a slight boost.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices tracked the dollar's movement all week, but came under pressure later in the week.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 372/372.50 $/oz, and closed lower at 369/369.50 $/oz, recording a loss of 2.50 $/oz over the previous week's closing of 371.50/372 $/oz.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at 5.21/5.23 $/oz and closed lower at 5.13/5.15 $/oz, recording a loss of 4 cents over the previous week's closing of 5.17/5.19 $/oz.

Platinum prices opened the week at 493/494 $/oz, reached a high of 498.50/499.50 $/oz before closing lower at 491/492 $/oz, but recording a gain over the previous week's closing of 489/490 $/oz.

Provided by Gulf Bank weekly market review.

Plans to set up stock market

Officials open talks

ABU DHABI, July 30, (Reuter): Arab monetary officials began five days of discussions in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) about plans to set up a stock market.

An official of the Arab Monetary Fund told Reuters they would hold talks with the ministries of economy and trade and finance and industry, the Central Bank, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Chambers of Commerce.

A team from the fund, based in Abu Dhabi, was in Qatar last week to help to set up a stock market, following a lead set by Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman in establishing exchanges.

The other member of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), Saudi Arabia, opened an exchange in 1987 but it was closed after three weeks because of what bankers termed objections from the religious community.

Project

The UAE has been considering a stock exchange since 1985 but financial sources said disparities between the laws of the seven emirates in the federation delayed the project.

Most of the GCC's overseas investments of more than $300 billion are in the West. Gulf bankers estimate their losses in the 1987 world stock market crash at between $25 and 30 billion.

The AMF official said talks in the UAE were part of what he called a long-term strategy to develop, set up and link Arab stock markets. "The project involves setting up a joint data centre for such markets at the AMF," he said.

In an another development Saudi Arabia may introduce anti-dumping laws to protect its fledgling industries from cheap foreign imports, the kingdom's deputy commerce minister has warned.

The minister, Abdul Rahman Al Zamil, was quoted today as telling the Jeddah-based English language Arab News that dumping posed a serious threat to Saudi Arabia.

"Like other developing nations, we are threatened with dumping. ...but...the problem is more serious as the kingdom follows a free economy," the paper quoted him as saying.

He said dumping had become a serious concern to Saudi Arabia after its domestic industries began to boost production.

Some manufactured goods, such as stranded cable, were already protected.

He said Saudi Arabia's domestic cement companies, which had a combined capacity of 14 million tonnes, had faced heavy competition from abroad in 1987.

The government had imposed a 20 per cent tariff on imported cement and local cement manufacturers had improved profits, he told the paper.

US, Iraq trade ties on the rise

Baghdad seeks American know-how

WASHINGTON, July 30, (KUNA): Trade relations between the United States and Iraq have increased significantly in the last few years, exceeding $2.76 billion in 1988 and making Iraq the largest Arab trading partner with the US after Saudi Arabia, according to the latest figures from the US Commerce Department.

Before the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the US at the end of 1984, American firms were playing only a very limited role in the development process in Iraq.

But now, the figures show that after the normalisation of relations, US firms are playing a wider role in the area of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

This was mainly due to the signing of a trade and technical co-operation agreement between Iraq and the US in 1987, Commerce Department officials say, which encouraged expansion of trade between the two countries.

Over the last five years, agricultural products dominated US exports to Iraq. The US Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation guaranteed about $1.1 billion of credit for the last two fiscal years to purchase agricultural commodities, thus making Iraq the largest importer of US agricultural goods under this programme.

In addition, the US Export-Import Bank guaranteed in 1987 a $200 million short-term credit insurance for the sale of non-agricultural goods.

The bank is now considering a grant of medium-term credit as the short-term credit has performed well, Commerce Department officials say.

The officials also note the increasing number of US firms which are trying to enter the Iraqi market especially after the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

Sharp increase in bank savings

China inflation falling

BEIJING, July 30, (Reuter): China said today that its rate of inflation was falling but a promise that it would be lower than last year would be hard to keep.

Releasing a sombre report on the economy, Zhang Zhongji, spokesman of the State Statistical Bureau, told reporters bank savings had risen sharply as public fears over inflation receded. Last year inflationary fears caused panic buying.

Zhang said inflation, 25.5 per cent in the first half of the year over the same period of 1988, would definitely fall for the rest of 1989.

However he said there was no guarantee it would be *lower than the 1988 figure of 18.5 per cent, as* Chinese leaders have repeatedly promised.

Asked what the rate would be for the whole year, Zhang said it was impossible to predict.

Having regained control of Beijing after sending in the Army against the biggest anti-government protests of its 40 years in power, the Communist Party faces the challenge of winning back public confidence through its economic policies.

Zhang had good news to report — more food in the shops thanks to a record summer grain harvest and stable supplies of meat, vegetable and edible oils.

"But the national economy has still not got out of its difficulties," he said. "Demand is greater than supply, the industrial structure is out of balance, efficiency is low and agriculture is too weak."

Losses by state firms in the first half totalled 6.87 billion yuan ($1.86 billion), more than for the whole of 1988, as a result of poor management, rising production costs, higher wages and the inability to fire surplus workers.

This has meant a drop in the revenue of the central government, bloating its already large deficit.

Unified strategy vital

Arab nations urged

BAHRAIN, July 30: Arab countries have been urged to evolve a unified strategy to meet the challenges they would face as a result of the formation of a single European Common Market in 1992 and its impact on the Arab economy.

The Federation of the Gulf Chambers of Commerce in a statement said such a step was necessary for the Arab countries to acclimatise themselves with the new financial and monetary arrangements.

The 12 European Economic Community countries are planning to form one single market in 1992 for free movements of goods and capital.

The release said these countries would prefer to conduct commercial dealings among themselves, since the basic objective of the market would be to boost the competitive power of European goods and industries and realise self sufficiency for themselves by imposing more difficult terms and conditions on other economic groups and countries.

Algeria plugs major gas well leak

ALGIERS, July 30, (Reuter): Algeria has plugged a leak at its second largest gas production centre that began 40 days ago and sent flames shooting into the sky over its southern desert.

The state hydrocarbons concern Sonatrach said on Saturday the leak at the Rhourde-Nouss Gas Centre, about 900 km (560 miles) southeast of Algiers, had been capped on July 26.

Gas erupted from a well at the centre on June 16 and Sonatrach called in US experts and tonnes of equipment to seal it with large quantities of a special mud.

Biman carries 1m passengers

BY carrying over one million passengers during the current fiscal year, Biman Bangladesh Airlines joined the league of million carriers in the highly competitive international airline business. The target for a million passengers was achieved on June 16 last for the first time since its inception.

It is expected that the figure will go about one million 40 thousand at the end of the fiscal year.

The success of carrying a million passengers in a fiscal year has been possible due to intensive market drive coupled with better financial and administrative performance and expansion of Biman's fleet.

Biman achieved an overall growth of 13 per cent in the passenger carriage during this fiscal year. In the domestic sector, the traffic growth during the period is 17 per cent while it is over 12 per cent in the regional and international sector.

The national airline is also expected to end the year with an operational profit of taka 10 crore against the losses of taka 10 crore 45 lakhs in 1987-88 and taka 18 crore 79 lakhs in 1986-87.

The construction of the hangar complex of Biman Bangladesh Airlines began on June 19 with the installation of a drilling rig at the project site at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in Dhaka.

On completion of the project, Biman will be capable of maintenance of its aircraft including the DC 10-30s up to 'C' level check. The hangar complex will also be able to provide service to aircraft of other airlines touching Dhaka.

Poland details price rise plan

WARSAW, July 30, (Reuter): Poland today announced details of a controversial scheme allowing steep food price rises from Tuesday but the plan appears to fall short of the true free market it aims to encourage.

The outgoing government of Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski, who was elected Communist Party chief yesterday, said meat rationing and fixed food prices would end.

"From August 1 administrative price-setting is abolished," read an announcement, adding that four products would keep official prices. The official PAP news agency published the statement.

The changes aim to get food into empty shops, cut the budget deficit and halt inflation. Opposition and some communist economists call the plan ill-prepared and say it could fuel unrest like revolts sparked by smaller rises in 1970 and 1980.

Under the plan most Poles will be partially compensated for new prices and later also for inflation, the government said.

But the critics say this could push three-fifths of Poland's 38 million people below the poverty line because food prices could rise to two or three times higher than the official estimates.

The announcement made clear so-called marketisation stopped short of a free market ruled by supply and demand.

Subsidies will initially be retained but frozen, it said. Huge state food purchasing monopolies are to be dismantled but no timescale was given. Until they go a free market cannot operate because they can still set prices, economists argue.

Fixed prices will be maintained on four products essential to poorer people: low-fat milk, soft cheese, rye bread and some baby food.

Responding to the concerns of many Poles, experts went on television to answer viewers' questions. PAP said four ministries would set up hotlines.

This summer Poles have queued for hours, even overnight, for rationed meat from state shops or have bought it at much higher prices from private traders.

Officials hope farmers will boost meat supplies by selling livestock they had withheld because production costs were not covered. Critics say shops will not be filled.

No bailout

West lines up aid for Poland, Hungary

BRUSSELS, July 30, (Reuter): The West will increase its support for sweeping political and economic reform in Poland and Hungary this week but is in no mood to bail out the creaking economies of either communist state.

A huge co-ordination effort, launched at the Paris summit of the world's richest nations two weeks ago, is expected to culminate at a Brussels meeting on Tuesday in a pledge of new food aid for Poland plus advice and expertise for both nations.

But for Warsaw, the prize of big new credits or a reprieve on part of its $39 billion debt will almost certainly have to wait until the country's political crisis is solved.

"There is a tremendous political desire to get into the reforming countries of the Eastern bloc and do what we can," said one diplomat in Western Europe.

"But at this stage it really is tinkering at the edges ... in the end of it is individual countries which must shoulder the burden of reform."

Western officials say the 23 nations gathering in Brussels for Tuesday's meeting face a dilemma born of expectations raised by US President George Bush's sweep through Poland and Hungary in early July.

With dramatic steps towards democracy taken in both nations, Washington and its allies are determined to keep up the momentum and seize the chance to foster capitalist ideals of private enterprise, liberal trade and free markets.

But, at the risk of disappointing expectations in Poland, officials are increasingly concerned that the political crisis there means the government is not yet able to undertake a coherent programme of economic reform — and make it stick.

That means that rescheduling some of the $26 billion Poland owes to Western governments is unlikely to be considered until October at the earliest.

The International Monetary Fund, according to some Western officials, is still a long way from extending credits and that could block $325 million of loans from the World Bank.

Tuesday's meeting, organised by the European Commission, coincides with one of the biggest tests yet for Poland's drive for a freer economy when the shortage-plagued food system is exposed to market forces.

The so-called marketisation plan has prompted dire warnings of price rises and protest strikes from opposition economists in Warsaw who told President Wojciech Jaruzelski and parliament on Friday that Poland was on the brink of disaster.

The seven summit nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — have ruled out a large scale economic bail-out for reformist East bloc states.

Instead, the seven said assistance should "sustain the momentum of reform through inward investment, joint ventures, transfer of managerial skills, professional training and other ventures which would help develop a more competitive economy."

But in practical terms it means a slow process in which the West, constrained by its own budget problems, tries to achieve maximum leverage with limited infusions of cash.

Western officials argue the economies of Eastern Europe do not need more debt but more efficient markets.

It is, however, unclear to what extent the West is ready to open up its own borders to any influx of East bloc goods.

Polish officials concede tariff concessions agreed in a five-year European Economic Community (EEC) trade deal last week will yield a benefit of only $5.5 million in 1990.

Hungary, whose foreign debt total $18 billion, is likely to follow a similar line to Poland, arguing that it needs free export markets for its agricultural and industrial goods, plus training and management expertise.

Polish Agriculture Minister Kazimierz Olesiak told Reuters in Warsaw that Poland wanted more Western investors setting up joint ventures, especially in food processing.

"What we need is not just financial help, which is a drop of water in the sea or our needs, but constant trade and investment co-operation that would introduce foreign capital," he said.

For Warsaw, more offers of emergency foods aid are expected to add to the recent EEC pledge of $120 million worth of meat, grain, fruit and oil from its stocks.

Stock markets undergo radical shakeup

MADRID, July 30, (Reuter): Spain's stock exchanges will sweep away Napoleonic practices and move into the era of electronic dealing tomorrow in a radical shakeup aimed at preventing business going to London and New York.

"If this institutional reform were not carried out the bourse would probably find itself in a straitjacket and risk being sidelined forever," Luis Carlos Croissier, who heads the government-appointed Market Regulatory Authority, said in an interview.

The main thrust of the reform, the most radical in 160 years, is to do away with previleges currently enjoyed by stockbrokers and to replace an open-outcry market rooted in the Napoleonic era.

Brokers were in festive mood on Friday as they celebrated the coming of Spain's version of "Big Bang" by spraying the bourse's trading floor with champagne.

Croissier has been appointed to a four-year term to run the National Securities Commission, which has sweeping powers on supervision and is closely modelled on the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

The brokers, who until now have acted as sole intermediaries in all share transactions, lost their privileged status on Saturday and the reform will be put into practice when markets open tomorrow.

They are being replaced by firms of broker-dealers, which can deal on their own account, and by brokers acting only on behalf of third parties.

Under a compromise deal designed to safeguard the interests of stockbrokers, banks and other outside investors will initially be allowed to own only 30 per cent of broking and broker-dealing companies. All limits on outside ownership will be removed by 1992.

The commission has granted licences to 51 companies to operate as members of the bourse in Madrid, Spain's largest.

Croissier said he did not believe there was an inevitable trend towards European equity business migrating to London, although its pre-eminence as a financial centre would remain unchallenged.

"People often think that with free movement of capital the only stock exchange that will survive in Europe will be London.

The purpose of the Spanish reform was to achieve a broader, more transparent market, "with more listed companies and greater channelling of savings into the stock exchange."

Croissier said more than 50 per cent of market volume in Madrid would be traded electronically through the computer assisted trading system (CATS) by the end of the year.

Plans to rebuild Cambodia

Japan to give its economic might

PARIS, July 30, (Reuter): Japan says it is willing to throw its economic might into rebuilding Cambodia if a 19-nation peace conference finds a comprehensive solution to the 10-year-old civil war which has shattered the Indo-Chinese nation.

A Japanese official said on the eve of the conference opening in Paris later today that Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka would propose Japan organises and bankrolls an international commission to reconstruct the country.

"This symbolises the arrival of Japan in the international community as a peacemaking nation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Seiichi Kondo told journalists.

The conference assembles leaders of the four warring Cambodian factions — the Vietnamese-backed Cambodian government and three resistance groups — together with foreign ministers representing major powers including the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

Kondo said Japan's role would be feasible only if the conference agreed to a "comprehensive solution" along the lines proposed by resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"It would be closely linked to a comprehensive political solution. It would be something that expedites the process towards that solution," he said.

"It should not be something that could lead to a departure from that process. That's why we've been very cautious in our approach to it," he added.

Asked if Japan would pay for the commission, Kondo replied: "Yes, that would be commensurate with our economic power."

A Japanese diplomat said that although funds would not be unlimited, Japan was willing to put up a lot of money.

Western diplomats said Japan's insistence on a comprehensive solution — a term used by resistance groups in their demands to be included in a provisional Cambodian government — would help the resistance case.

"The Japanese initiative is likely to block the forces of partialism. It's a significant gesture of support for Sihanouk and should boost his strength," a Bangkok-based envoy said.

But he added: "It's bound to make Phnom Penh rant on about Japanese imperialism."

Sinhanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, is the Western-backed president of the three-party guerrilla coalition, including the radical Khmer Rouge, fighting the Phnom Penh government.

Kondo said Japan's motive for the plans, to be announced by Foreign Minister Mitsuzuka in a speech tomorrow, was not just economic.

"It's not a question of commercial interest. We are interested in bringing peace to Asia," he said.

"Since last year Japan has been cautiously stepping out of the economic area into a more political field."

The details of the proposed reconstruction commission have not been worked out but Kondo said in principle any country that wanted to would be able to take part. Its emphasis would be on economic and technical reconstruction.

Bright prospects for farm products

CALCUTTA, July 30: Export prospects of Indian agricultural implements to Middle-East countries have brightened with these countries in laying emphasis on agricultural development with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in food and other agricultural products.

Since there is no worthwhile local production of agricultural products, the countries like Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Yemen have to depend on imports. But the large scale agricultural expansions are under way in those countries.

The major items have sustained potential market in these countries, according to Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), are pick axes, shovels, hoes, crowbars, sickles, powrahs, rakes, forks, axes and wheel barrows.

Unlike other manufactured goods, agricultural implements market have no brand or country preference. Price-tag is the only consideration for concluding a business deal.

The pattern of importing agricultural implements and equipment into the Middle East is reported to have undergone a significant change.

Previously, these items were being imported mainly from Japan and Western Europe which were costly. Presently, local importers — mostly hardware merchant and trading houses started importing these items (implements) mainly from China, South Korea, India, Japan and Taiwan because of lower price.

Domestic exporters should also appoint local indenting agents and scrupulously stick to the committed delivery schedule.

EEC energy plans

N-plants seen making profits

BRUSSELS, July 30, (Reuter): France's nuclear power plants will be the first to generate profits from a single European Economic Community market in electricity, industry analysts say.

The community plans to include the energy trade in its barrier-free internal market, forcing down prices through competition and increasing consumer choice.

Antonio Cardoso E Cunha, energy policy chief on the European Commission, wants to allow gas and electricity producers to sell outside their own networks via third party grids.

He aims to stimulate cross-border trade, which the bloc's executive body says currently stands at just four per cent of EEC electricity supplies.

The proposals are widely seen as giving a boost to French hopes of increasing its exports of nuclear power.

Michael Crawshaw, energy analyst with London-based brokerage UBS-Phillips and Drew, said Cardoso's ideas, which still have to be approved by EEC governments, would help the French take advantage of an expected shortfall in electricity supplies.

"We see a capacity shortage coming by 1995. There is a ready market for the French surplus," Crawshaw said.

And Ulrich Wagner of the Energy Research Institute in Munich said: "I think the French will succeed in penetrating the West German market."

Cardoso, who insists he is not an agent for the selling of electricity from "this source or that," says growing demand, unwillingness to build new power stations and better transit opportunities put France in a favourable position.

"Everybody wants to have more light and nobody wants new power plants — but the consumption will rise very fast," he told Reuters.

France, the world's second biggest producer of atomic energy after the United States, operates 50 nuclear reactors, which generate 70 per cent of its electricity, the highest proportion of any country.

State-owned Monopoly Electricite de France (EDF), is already a major exporter, selling 44.4 billion kilowatt/hours abroad in 1988. Its best foreign customers were Britain, with 13 billion kwh, Italy with 10, and Switzerland with nine billion.

And France could sell more. An EDF spokesman said that at current levels of domestic demand, five of the country's 50 reactors could produce exclusively for foreign markets.

Cardoso's proposals have had a mixed reception.

Portuguese Industry and Energy Minister Luis Mira Amaral welcomed the plans, saying they would lay to rest a dispute with Madrid over his country's intention to receive French electricity via the Spanish network.

"These directives ... justify the ministry's point of view — it did not make sense that Portugal had to produce electrical energy at elevated costs," Mira Amaral said.

But a Bonn government official called the proposals one-sided and "a clear concession to French interests."

They failed to take into account the special situation of regional electricity suppliers in West Germany, who are tied to a subsidy system which commits producers to burn a fixed amount of costly domestic coal.

One West German official said pressure from the commission on Bonn to wind down the coal aid system, coupled with Cardoso's new proposals, constituted "a very clever pincer attack launched jointly by Paris and Brussels."

Cardoso says he is strictly neutral and serving the best interests of all parties. "Nothing prevents the Germans from producing energy at competitive prices just like the French, particularly if they use imported coal."

Power supply is currently one third cheaper in France than in West Germany, according to EDF.

UBS's Crawshaw believes the price gap will narrow in future until it ceases to be a decisive factor: "By the time we come round to the mid-1990s, it is just a question of who has got the surplus capacity rather than who has got the cheap electricity."

Scandal turns into major headache

Corruption case

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 30, (AP): Venezuela's biggest financial scandal has grown from a domestic headache into a spreading international embarrassment for President Carlos Andres Perez.

After all, few presidents relish a local judge ordering the arrest of another country's cabinet minister.

At home, the Recadi exchange-fraud case involves Perez's predecessor, Jaime Lusinchi, and some of the highest-ranking members of his administration, which was in power from 1984 until Perez took over this year.

The scandal began spreading weeks ago to top multinational executives, but it only recently made international headlines with the revelation that one of them — Nestor Rapanelli — had been named Argentina's finance minister, in charge of implementing a stringent economic reform programme.

The news that judge Luis Guillermo la Riva had issued an arrest order for Rapanelli meant strong embarrassment for Perez and Argentine President Carlos Menem, both struggling with political and economic woes.

Perez was visibly angry and embarrassed over having to call Menem, saying he told his Argentine counterpart "how upset I was that I couldn't do anything." But he is even more concerned that multinationals are threatening to leave Venezuela if the Recadi probe continues to centre on them.

Nestor Rapanelli

In June, US Congressman Dante Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter to Venezuela's US ambassador, warning that he had received complaints from several US companies whose executives are under investigation.

Fascell said the companies were considering closing their Venezuelan operations.

Dozens of companies are accused of illegally obtaining funds from Recadi, the government agency that during Lusinchi's administration was in charge of distributing preferential dollars for imports at rates far below the free market.

The agency was set up to cushion the effect of the 1983 devaluation, the first in 20 years.

Recadi distributed almost $40 billion — more than Venezuela's $33-billion foreign debt. At least $6 billion were fraudulently granted through overbilling and nonexistent imports. One investigator said the money "went straight to a bank accounts in New York and Switzerland."

At the beginning, Perez supported the investigation because it concentrated on corruption during the administration of Lusinchi, a long-time personal and political rival within the Social Democratic Accion Democratica, the government party.

But now the government has joined the growing criticism surrounding La Riva and his decisions in the case.

Among other things, La Riva has ordered the arrests of several multinational executives, including the former and current presidents of companies such as Ford and General Motors. One man had retired long before the fraud occurred; another arrived in Venezuela months later.

At least a dozen executives from other companies have been banned from leaving the country, among them the head of Ciba Geigy and other pharmaceutical companies.

Rapanelli, a former top executive of the Argentine grain consortium Bunge and Born, is charged with illegally getting dollars for the Venezuelan flour mill Gramoven, where Bunge and Born own shares.

KD rates steady in quiet market

KUWAIT, July 30, (Reuter): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates were mostly unchanged in a quiet market.

The fixed dates were unmoved at a uniform 9-1/4 8-3/4 per cent. The short dates were quoted wider at 9-3/8 8-3/8 from yesterday's nine 8-1/2. Dealers reported few if any trades.

Rates had eased yesterday after the Central Bank opened its discount window for treasury bills at 7-1/2 per cent. Bankers said they believed the window would close again on Wednesday.

The Central Bank left its dinar to dollar exchange rate fixed from yesterday at 0.29416/26.

Meanwhile, the Saudi riyal interbank deposit market continued unchanged in a dead market with no new factors of interest, dealers said.

Rates for one through six months were being quoted around 8-1/2 8-3/8 per cent, or a 1/16 lower than that in places.

The spot riyal was steady around 3.7503/06 to the dollar.

KUWAIT

	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
BANK SECTOR						
-NATIONAL BANK	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.990	1005425	33
-GULF BANK	0.355	0.360	0.360	0.360	230000	6
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.265	0.270	0.270	0.270	250000	8
-AHLI BANK	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	180000	6
-B.K.M.E	0.325	0.325	0.325	0.325	40000	4
-K.R.E.B.	0.330	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-BURGAN BANK	0.260	0.260	0.265	0.260	200000	5
-K.F.HOUSE	0.475	0.470	0.470	0.470	340000	13
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KWT INV. CO.	0.099	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-K.I.I.C.	0.064	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-COM.FACILITIES	0.430	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-AHLIAH INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-I.F.A.	0.095	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-INV. PEARL KWT	0.087	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-NATIONAL INV.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	120000	2
-KWT PROJECTS.	0.079	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KWT INSURANCE	0.600	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-GULF INSURANCE	0.320	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-AHLIA INS. CO.	0.480	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-WARBA INS. CO.	0.320	-----	-----	-----	-------	---
REAL EST SECTOR						
-KWT R.EST. CO.	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	280000	5
-UNI R.EST. CO.	0.090	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-NAT R.EST. CO.	0.180	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-SALHIAH R.E.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-KWT R.E.I.CON	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
-NAT IND. CO.	0.490	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-KWT M.P. IND.	0.310	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-KWT CEMENT CO.	0.170	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-REF. IND. CO.	0.360	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-GULF CABLE	0.980	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-K.PH.IND. CO.	0.166	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-CONT.MARINE	0.300	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-K.SH.REP.CO	0.045	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
SERVICES SECTOR						
-OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-K.N.C. CO.	0.180	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-KWT HOTELS CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-P.WAREHOUSING	0.138	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-CON.MKT.CMPX.	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	80000	2
-MOBILE TELE.	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	80000	2
-KWT COMPUTER	0.144	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
FOOD SECTOR						
-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-UNTD FISHERIES	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-UNTD POULTRY	0.230	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-KWT FOODS	0.300	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-AGRI.FOOD PRD.	0.150	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
NON-KWT SECTOR						
-BHN.INTER.BK	0.064	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-BHN.M.EAST.BK	0.046	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-COAST INVEST.	0.082	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-A.G.INV.GROP.	0.029	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-FIRST.GULF BK	0.850	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-BHN.KUW.GROP	0.078	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-GULF MEDICAL.	0.034	-----	-----	-----	-------	----

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET

FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-GULF INTL INS	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-ARAB INT CO.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-SHARJAH INS	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-GULF UNION INS	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-R.K.WHITE CMNT	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
-AJMAN CEMENT.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-FUJAIRAH CEMT	0.000	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
C-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	-----	-----	-----	-------	----
D-GULF CEMENT	0.010	-----	-----	-----	-------	----

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	2.59	2.59
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	2.25	2.22
ARAB BANK	208.4	213.0
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	5.68	5.70
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.98	2.08
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10	1.10
ARAB INT.INV/TRAD.	0.62	0.59
ARAB INT.UNION INS	1.11	1.16
ARAB INTER.HOTELS	1.27	1.27
ARAB JOR/INVST/BK	2.40	2.33
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.40	0.42
ARAB PHARMA.MANF.	4.35	4.35
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	2.24	2.35
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.25	15.20
BEIT AL-MAL/BEITMA	1.30	1.25
BELGIUM INSURANCE	0.95	1.00
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	29.00	29.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.34	0.34
DAR ALDAWA DV/INV.	3.02	3.08
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.82	0.81
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.50	4.50
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.25	1.25
GENERAL MINNING.	2.10	2.10
HIMMEH MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	1.28	1.34
INDSTRL DEVLPT BNK	1.70	1.65
INDSTRL/COMM/AGR.	1.60	1.66
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERN.CON/INV	0.13	0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.81	0.81
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	2.70	2.70
J.TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.80	0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.50	19.50
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	2.30	2.30
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.49	1.49
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.09	1.07
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.18	2.18
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.41	2.41
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83
JOR LIM BRICK	0.11	0.10
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.48	2.46
JOR PAPER CARDBRDG	4.59	4.67
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	4.60	4.65
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	2.45	2.42
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.25
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.52	1.50
JOR SECURIT CORP	1.12	1.11
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.13	2.12
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	3.15	3.10
JOR WORSTED MLL	4.92	4.90
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.85	0.89
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.91	7.91
JOR.FRENCH INS.	3.00	2.95
JOR.INV.FIN.CORP	2.30	2.28
JORADAN GULF REAL	0.33	0.33
JORDAN DAIRY	1.10	1.09
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.12	1.12
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	3.09	3.02
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	2.32	2.33
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.30	1.30
JORDAN TANNING	2.00	2.00

Plans to improve quality control

China to regulate import, export items

BEIJING, July 30, (AP): Foreign companies trying to sell such popular products as cars, motorcycles, refrigerators and televisions to China will have to obtain quality certificates, an official newspaper reported today.

There have been complaints in China that foreign countries were dumping low-quality goods here. The new measure also could be used to slow the pace of such consumer imports.

Imports exceeded exports by $5.7 billion in the first half of this year, the State Statistical Bureau reported.

A new law on import and export commodity inspection, taking effect Tuesday, also will require 481 Chinese products to undergo inspection before they can be exported, in a bid to improve quality control, the China Daily reported.

Zhu Zhenyuan, director general of the inspection administration, said low-quality goods have hurt China's reputation in foreign trade.

China Daily said foreign sellers will have to obtain quality certificates six months in advance for certain items. Under the measure, which takes effect next May 1, other items will have to undergo inspection before being imported.

Zhu said the worst problems with exports occur with agricultural products that are difficult to inspect. Some unscrupulous firms steal shipments or substitute uninspected goods for high-quality items after they have been inspected for export, he added.

In one case, he said, such items as textbooks, cigarette boxes and sliding weights were discovered inside a shipment of Chinese sesame seeds to Cyprus.

The English-language China Daily said inspectors will begin more thorough checks of export items of dubious quality and weigh shipments after rather than before they are loaded on ships.

Bee Gees shake off 'medallion men' image

Remembering Andy Gibb

By Tracey Weeks

VENTIES pop sensations, the Bee es, are buying their late brother Andy a lti-million pound "memorial." They financing the major movie he had amed of making.

Andy, who died at age 30 of a heart ack brought on by cocaine abuse, wan- to make a film called Sonja. It was to be sed on one of his favourite books, The ctor and Damned, which tells the story French resistance hero Dr Albert Hass d his wife Sonja.

He never lived to launch the project, so others Maurice, Robin and Barry are ing it for him. And Robert de Niro is set play Dr Hass.

Maurice, aged 37, speaking for the first me about the brothers' sorrow, said: None of us can really believe Andy is ad. I talk to him every night and I know y brothers do the same."

It is the last chapter in a family saga that ould well provide the basis for a movie ript. The Bee Gees saga has both dizzy ccess and tragedy.

One of the great highs was when laurice, Barry and Robin wrote the big- st-selling sound track of all time, *Satur- y Night Fever*. The biggest heartbreak as Andy's fatal drug accident.

There were roller-coaster ups and owns over the years for the stars famous r their white sequinned jump suits and edallions. And Andy, as a solo singer, ng his way to a series of hits. These cluded *I Just Want To Be Your Every- ing* and *Shadow Dancing*.

But Andy couldn't beat the habit that as to eventually kill him. Even though he as warned three years before his death, in Oxford hospital last March, that the caine had permanently damaged his art. If he carried on taking the drug, he ould die.

Andy, the baby of the family had always eferred to live life in the fastest of lanes. nd he was always in the newspapers ossip columns because of his string of amorous girlfriends.

In his heyday, Andy had close encoun- rs of the romantic kind with Marie smond and actress Susan George.

And it was partly due to women, fast rs and drugs that he lost his fortune. The rmer millionaire singer filed for bank- ptcy, six months before his tragic death. e was expected to tour with his brothers May, to help solve his cash crisis. At the me, Barry said: "Andy has been through ll. He has blown all his money on drugs."

Funeral

But Andy put the blame at ex-girlfriend toria Principal's door. The former soap star was his live-in lover. And dy said he never quite recovered when left him for the man she later married, tic surgeon Harry Glassman.

Andy confessed that he turned to drugs consolation after Victoria dumped m. He said: "I was so devastated by the it-up that I think subconsciously I wan- to commit suicide. At that time nothing the world existed for me but Victoria.

Victoria didn't go to Andy's funeral, lthough his old flame singer Olivia New- on-John did attend. Even at the funeral, there were dramas.

The Bee Gees: 'Quite often, unknown to one another, we'll all write parts of a song while we are apart and the pieces will fit when we get together'

Andy's mother, Barbara refused to let his ex-wife Kim have Andy's wedding ring as a memento. There had even been rows over where he should be buried.

Kim, mother of Andy's ten-year-old daughter, Peta, said: "Barry was terribly upset at the funeral. He kept blaming himself for Andy's death. He wept, saying he would give every cent he possessed to bring Andy back."

And it was revealed that Kim and Andy once had a bizarre pact. The idea was that by tying a rope to Andy's hand, leaving the other end trailing outside the coffin, he could let Kim know if he was still alive by tugging the string. It was based on a horror story by Edgar Allen Poe about a man's fears of being buried alive.

At the time of Andy's death, the Bee Gee brothers said he had been looking forward to reviving his career after his five-year battle against cocaine addiction. Andy had been working on a new recording contract. As part of his fight to kick the habit, he had once been admitted to California's Betty Ford clinic.

That planned get-together for the brothers marked the final goodbye to a period of bitterness. At one time, it was said that they communicated only through lawyers.

Then came the reunion ... and the tragedy. The Gibbs boys, once the architypal medallion men, had come a long way since they were born on the Isle of Man. Their father Hughie, now 72, was the drummer in a jazz combo and mother, Barbara, was a singer.

It was hardly surprising that the brothers soon proved to be musically inclined.

The boys, Barry, now aged 41 — whose initials gave the group its name — and twins, 37-year-old Robin and Maurice were harmonising together, by the time the twins were four.

The family moved to Australia in 1958 and the brothers began thier singing career in clubs and on television. They were doing gigs when they were still at school and said they grew up with other artistes, strippers and jugglers.

Height

Ten years ago, the Bee Gees were at the height of their success. They had mansions near to each other along Florida's Millionaires Row. At £3 million-plus, the homes came complete with swimming pools and jacuzzis.

The group had 24 British hit singles, four of which reached the number one slot. There were also 27 American hit songs, with nine chart-busters...six of them in a row. The Bee Gees wrote more than 1,000 published songs.

In the 1960s they sang, *I Gotta Get a Message To You* and *Massachusetts*. And in the 1970s, they had success with *Jive Talkin*, *Staying Alive* and *Tragedy*.

But their biggest hit was the music for the hit movie, Saturday Night Fever, when 25 million copies of the soundtrack were sold. Maurice said: "It was one of the most successful films ever, with one of the biggest albums."

Robin was not so enthusiastic. He said: "I just couldn't believe how terrible the film was. It projected an image of the Bee Gees that any man would be ashamed to own up to."

The band hate being reminded of their image as medallion boys and find it "embarrassing" and hard to shake off.

It was British comedian Kenny Everett who first sent up the Bee Gees, with a spoof of the rock band, called the Hee-Bee-Gee-Bees. The brothers thought the whole thing "brilliantly funny."

Still chuckling at the joke but serious about shedding the image, the Bee Gees ceremoniously burned their chest wigs and melted down the medallions. Their trousers were never as tight again.

In 1981, after their album *Living Eyes* flopped, the Bee Gees split up and tried to make solo careers. But they came together again after a joint songwriting on Diana Ross' hit single, *Chain Reaction*.

Their first single for six years, *You Win Again*, was a dramatic change in style for the former disco kings. It was a modern rhythm and blues number. In the music world's Oscars, the Ivor Novello Awards this year, it won the best contemporary song section. The Bee Gees also captured an award for outstanding contribution to British music.

During the group's comeback in 1987, they released their ESP album. But even before their arrival, the brothers claim they were still giving hit records to the likes of Diana Ross, Kenny Rogers, John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John

Maurice, Robin and Barry dabbled in the occult and with ouija board. But as Maurice explained: "It got out of hand and we don't mess any more." He added: "Quite often, unknown to one another, we'll all write parts of a song while we are apart and the pieces will fit when we get together."

Looking out for 'engine' trouble

Personal check-list

JUST as a car needs a regular check of all its component parts to keep it roadworthy and safe for its drivers and others, so do human bodies benefit from regular overhauls. Most of the time our bodies operate superbly with minimal interference from us, but it helps hugely to know how the signs of inner disorder show themselves and to present them promptly for expert care.

You can't hear a nasty knocking in your own engine, but you can identify potentially significant signs and symptoms of disease. Each of these checklists can be used to identify problems in specific body systems.

Use them sensibly; there's no need to check each list daily, for example. Where self-testing is needed at set intervals, you'll find more information on how often to do it. In between times, just forget about it all.

Signs of cancer you need to watch for...

Any one of the items on this list might indicate there are cancerous diseases to be dealt with, but never forget that each of them can be due to other causes. The wise thing to do if you check "yes" to any one of the items is to ask your doctor to investigate promptly.

Unusual bumps or lumps. Most likely to be found in the breast, these make women very anxious, but never forget that the majority of breast lumps are benign (non cancerous). Also, lumps in the testes may be significant (see screening for cancer, below).

Unusual bleeding from any orifice, in the absence of injury. Blood in the stools is very likely to be haemorrhoids (piles) or a fissure (small split) but needs checking. Bleeding between periods or after intercourse may be due to many causes, but again, cancer is a possibility. Blood in urine is another probably non-cancerous symptom, but must be reported to your GP.

Unusual discharge. Sometimes discharge from the nipples can suggest a cancerous condition. Persistent discharges from the vagina are almost always due to non-malignant causes, but need to be checked. The same is true of the nose and rectum.

Changes in normal functions — if they're unconnected with other illnesses. Changes in bowel habits, with severe constipation or constant diarrhoea, or difficulty in passing urine, may be significant.

Any weight and girth change, in the absence of changes in your appetite. A marked loss of weight, or a marked increase in the size of the abdomen or of an arm or a leg, when, as far as you can tell, you have not changed your eating habits, needs to be checked.

A cough or breathlessness when you haven't got a cold. The causes of these symptoms are many, but must never be neglected — in a smoker in particular.

Sounding hoarse when you haven't got a cold. Changes in the voice can be due to harmless causes as well as cancer. Examination is essential to make sure that it's not cancer, particularly in smokers.

Bruising which appears in the absence of any sort of injury. Many people, especially young children, have particularly delicate capillaries which break easily and result in bruises. But in a few cases this may be a sign of a blood disease which needs treatment.

Sores which do not heal. Sores on the skin or in the mouth could be due to illnesses other than cancer, but must be checked.

Moles which enlarge or darken

A fairly rare form of cancer presents like this, so always check, even if you are not sure whether or not the mole has changed markedly.

Once again, please remember that none of these is automatically a sign of cancer. So there is no need to panic. But all of them definitely do need a medical check.

Screening for cancer. There are tests you can do yourself that may indicate signs of illness. The earlier cancerous changes in cells are identified, the easier it is for doctors to deal with the condition with the minimum of distress to the sufferer. Each test should be done at regular intervals.

Cervical smears. These should be done from the time you start to be sexually active to well into old age. The test is simple and identifies potential disease while it's easily curable. Ideally, it should be done every three years. Many women, however, prefer having their smears done once a year.

Breast self-examination. A simple routine which should be carried out once a month, ideally after the end of the menstrual period, when breasts are at their softest or, in post-menopausal women, on the same date of each calendar month.

Mammography. This is an X-ray examination that can be done on women aged 35 plus at two or one-yearly intervals. It can also be done in response to a self-examination that shows unexplained new lumps.

Testicular self-examination. This should be carried out by all adult men at regular intervals (say once a month), looking for unusual lumps or changes in the size of the testes, which can be early signs of cancer. Most easily done in a warm bath, when the scrotum is relaxed.

Digestive disorders. Remember these signs may not be sinister, and it's important to note concurrent eating behaviour; pain in the belly, or sickness, is more likely to be due to dietary indiscretion rather than to underlying disease.

Persistent pain felt under the ribs.

Heartburn (pain and burning behind the breast bone; may be linked with hiatus hernia). Difficulty in passing stools, diarrhoea, or chronic constipation.

Marked changes in colour and consistency of stools. Pain in the centre of the ribs, low down, moving through to the back — this can be due to a peptic ulcer.

Waterbrash — when the mouth seems to fill with saliva. This also is a possible sign of a peptic ulcer.

Waves of belly pain — this might suggest some colon disorder.

Attacks of nausea, vomiting. Pain in the right side of the belly. Sometimes radiating up to the shoulder. This could be gall bladder disease.

General Health. Some of these symptoms may indicate high blood pressure, heart disorders, though many will have less important causes.

Double vision.

"Haloes" around lights. Sudden limitation of visual fields, such as an inability to see what's at the sides.

"Ringing" in the ears not associated with wax.

Pain in and around the ears — report this to a doctor; ear infections need rapid treatment. Unusual production of sputum — especially if discoloured.

Frequent headaches not associated with food or drink.

Dizziness on exertion, or on bending over.

Breathlessness on mild exertion.

Wheeziness on mild exertion.

Unusual pain in the chest, left arm, jaw. (This could be linked with heart disease, as well as certain other conditions).

Changes in the amount of urine production, either a great increase or a reduction.

Blood in the urine. But remember, food such as beetroot can colour it. Pain in passing urine. Unusual thirst, especially if associated with marked weight loss.

Beware of beauty myths

'Don't wash your hair everyday. You'll dry it out."

Unless you use a very heavy detergent shampoo (a rarity in 1989), washing every day won't dry out your hair. If you want to wash your hair more than once a day (as many athletes do), choose delicate products.

'Fat can be turned into muscle."

You have a definite number of muscles that are part of your body structure. You can tone muscles by exercising, but you cannot change fat tissue to muscle tissue. To get rid of fat, pair smart dietary decisions with aerobic exercise.

If you have an oily area on your face, choose a regimen for oily skin."

Don't treat your entire face with a product that's aimed at controlling one certain area. In order to keep oily spots under control, for example, many women with combination skin treat their entire face with drying products. A better strategy: Treat oily and dry areas according to their respective needs. For instance, apply moisturizer to cheeks if they tend to be dry: use an astringent on more oil-prone nose and chin.

'Never wash with soap — it's more drying than cream cleanser."

While soap-and-water cleansing is generally more drying, there are soaps that will work for almost everyone. Neutrogena Cleansing Bar is a non-dry-soap gentle enough for dry skin. Or choose a superfatted soap such as Basis — it won't strip away essential oils. For best results, don't overcleanse; use tepid, not hot, water for rinsing. If your skin is oily, Dial Ivory and Pear's are gentle and effective. If, however, you wear a lot of makeup, you may want to use a cream cleanser first to remove every trace.

'Natural products like henna or lemon are better for your hair than regular hair-coloring products."

Actually, henna is extremely drying, as is the combination of lemon juice and the sun. And, incidentally, lemon juice does not significantly boost the sun's lightening power. Hair-coloring products are actually gentler, because they're formulated with conditioners and you can control the outcome.

'If your skin is oily, you don't need a moisturizer."

It's true that, if you have oily skin, you don't have to apply moisture all over your face. But low humidity, exposure to chemicals such as chlorine in swimming pools and oversloughing are all factors that may contribute to unusual spot dryness. If skin feels tight, dry or itchy, apply moisturizer as needed.

'If your eyes get red or puffy at night, you must be allergic to your eye makeup."

Irritation might actually be the result of the way you take makeup off. For gentle removal: First, apply a gentle facial cleanser all over your lid. Next, soak a cotton ball in non-oily makeup remover and wipe gently. If you find your eye makeup difficult to remove, you may want to switch to easier-to-remove products.

'If you have oily skin, you should stick to moisturizers and foundations that are labeled 'oil-free.' "

The term "oil-free" doesn't necessarily mean that there is no oil whatsoever in the formula. "Oil-free" products usually contain a synthetic equivalent of oil, as opposed to the animal, vegetable or mineral oils that other products contain. If you have oily skin, the issue is not which kind of "oil" your products contain, but the proportion of oily substance to water. To test whether a product is an oil-in-water emulsion (your best choice), put a small drop on your hand. If it sinks in and disappears, it's a good bet. If it sits on the skin surface and shimes, chances are it's not right for you.

'The higher that exercise gets your heart rate, the better."

If you love aerobics, there's a temptation to keep pushing yourself harder and harder. But more doesn't necessarily mean better. If you're in very good shape, it's safe to work out at up to 85 per cent of your maximum heart rate (to find it, subtract your age from 220). Exercising at a higher rate puts a heavy stress on your body.

"If you get a bad haircut, leave it alone. In a couple of months, you'll save enough hair to fix it."

Don't wait! Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, you can repair a bad cut immediately, says Michael Gordon of Bumble + Bumble, New York City. If you have a relationship with a stylist or a salon, go back. Explain what you don't like about the cut and the look you prefer. If you go back within a couple of weeks, you shouldn't be charged for the return visit. However, if you feel the stylist was at fault, it might be worth it to go elsewhere (even though you'll be paying twice) to be sure that you get a cut you can happily live with.

"Take a picture of the haircut you want when you go to the salon."

Better: Take at least half a dozen. Some magazine photographs are actually "styles" rather than "cuts". The looks are achieved with a variety of products, appliances, maybe even a fan to achieve a windblown look. You can imitate a style, but it's not a wash-and-wear cut. Make a habit of collecting pictures of hairstyles you love. Showing a wide selection to your stylist, then discussing what you want — in terms of length, shape, attitude — is the best strategy for getting a cut you love.

"Shampooing frequently makes oily hair oilier."

Shampooing won't alter your scalp's oil production. If you overscrub hair, you may, however, end up with an oily scalp (your scalp's going to continue to produce oil, no matter how often you shampoo) and hair that's overly dry toward the ends (you're removing much of the oil that coats the shaft). Do shampoo with a gentle product, concentrate suds on the scalp, and don't keep washing and rinsing until your hair squeaks. If ends are overly dry, apply conditioner to them, but keep it off scalp area.

"There are new products that work miracles on wrinkles."

No product is going to erase your wrinkles, but the new products you've heard about are effective at temporarily plumping skin and minimizing wrinkles' visibility. One new ingredient, hyaluronic acid, absorbs water, and temporarily fills in facial lines.

Actor keeps challenge of role in perspective

Keach, the new King of Siam

By Ken Sugar

ACTOR Stacy Keach is drawn to mountain-sized challenges. He's beaten cocaine addiction and played everything from Hamlet to Mike Hammer. How he's about to fill Yul Brynner's curly-toed slippers as the King of Siam.

Keach stars in the national tour of *The King and I*, which began on July 11 in Atlanta. It is the first tour of the play since Brynner died in 1985, but Keach appears confident about this latest undertaking.

'I've had success with kings," he said, sitting in his hotel room, dressed for a morning workout in navy sweats and a white T-shirt. "The first role I ever played was a king.

"I was 4 years old and I did *Old King Cole* at Taft elementary school in Taft, Texas. Years later, I did *Henry the Fifth*. I hope this dosen't spoil my record."

That record includes a series of bigger-than-life roles, including the legendary Buffalo Bill in the 1969 Broadway drama *Indians*, which earned him a Tony nomination for Best Actor, and playing *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Falstaff* and *Hamlet* in productions at the New York Shakespeare Festival in 1972.

"That was a mountain," Keach said of his Hamlet debut. "I was terrified when I first did Hamlet. You talk about inviting some dangerous comparisons. What about a couple of guys named Olivier and Gielgud?"

Keach, 47, now married to Polish-born actress Malgosia Tomassi, is a graduate of the Yale Drama School and earned a Fulbright scholarship to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

He is known to television viewers as private eye Mike Hammer in the CBS drama series and he appeared with his brother James in the movie *The Longriders*, playing, understandably, older brother Frank James to James' Jesse.

The challenge for Keach in the *The King and I* is that the role has been so closely associated with Brynner.

Brynner starred in the original performance at New York's St James Theatre in 1951, and continued playing the part off and on for 34 years until his death during the play's last Broadway revival.

In the last production, Brynner played opposite operatic soprano Mary Beth Peil, who was cast as Anna, the English governess hired to tutor the Crown Prince of Siam. Peil returns to play opposite Keach.

The play is based on the real-life story of Anna Leonownes, who arrived in Siam in 1851, stayed for seven years and ended up teaching the king a thing or two as well as his children.

Keach said one way he kept the challenge of the role in perspective was his refusal to play the role bald — Brynner's trademark — calling that "cheap imitation."

"Does any actor believe he could play the king better than Yul?" he said. "To me, it's a great relief that he's so untouchable. I can just relax and find my own interpretation."

As much as Keach tries to avoid the subject, invariably he is asked about his six-month prison term in England for attempting to smuggle cocaine through Heathrow Airport in a shaving cream can.

In the four years since his incarceration, Keach has testified before a congressional committee on substance abuse and addressed youthful audiences on the damaging effects of drugs.

He told the congressional panel that his 10-year cocaine habit, which cost him as estimated $250 a day, was his "greatest imprisonment." Today, he would like to stop talking about that period in his life.

"It's ancient history," Keach said. "I don't want to dwell on it. I am happy that it's behind me and that life is on the upswing." (UPI).

Stacy Keach leaves H.M. Prison Reading after serving a six-month term for attempting to smuggle cocaine through Heathrow Airport in a can of shaving cream.

Words to make women wince

Misogynist utterings

By Laura Nicols

WHAT's your idea of a truly male chauvinistic observation? How about this from actor Peter O'Toole: "If you don't want trouble, don't go near a woman."

Or this from tennis ace Pat Cash: "Women's tennis is junk. Most of the girls are no good. If I played a practice game with Boris Becker when the women's final was on, we'd have more people watching our knock-up."

Golfer Jack Nicklaus tees off with something in the same vein: "What the ladies on the course are doing is eliminating much of the available time when young players could get on." By young, of course, he means young male!

Even the usually-uncontroversial Steve Davis has this to say about female snooker players: "It's not women's bodies that are the problem — it's their minds. They just don't seem to be able to concentrate as well as men, which is why they will never break into the male preserve of championship snooker. Lack of mental control prevents them becoming top class. Chess is another example. All the best players are men."

And that most genial of personalities, Terry Wogan — who tries not to offend anyone — managed a monumental slip when he said to Anna Ford about her unborn baby: "Do you think it is going to be a boy or a child?"

All these quotes are from **A Misogynist's Source Book** (Jonathan Cape, £7.95) in which hundreds of anti-feminist pronouncements and quotations have been patiently compiled by actress Fidelis Morgan.

Pat Cash: "Women's tennis is junk."

As men have never been slow to give their opinion about women, she had a wide choice and it is to her credit that, although designed as a serious reference book, it is lightened with a generous lacing of humour.

Did Noel Coward really mean it when he said: "Certain women should be struck regularly — like gongs"? Or W.C. Fields with this: "Women are like elephants. I like looking at them but I wouldn't want to own one"?

But you get the impression Somerset Maugham, a noted misogynist, wasn't kidding when he said: "There must be some women who aren't liars."

Serious

Pope John Paul II was obviously serious when he pronounced in 1981: "A woman's place is in the home looking after her family, not working."

Cowboy star John Wayne's view on the same topic was "Women have a right to work whenever they want to, as long as they have dinner ready when you get home."

Ms Morgan has fun with modern ideas of the perfect woman. According to composer Lionel Bart, she is "a crying, talking, sleeping, walking living doll." Playboy magazine in the Sixties listed her as "a beautiful sex-starved deaf mute who owns a liquor store." And guitarist David Lee Roth last year described her as someone who has "a brilliant mind, wants to make love until 4 am — then turns into a pizza."

Earl Spencer, father of Princess Diana, said in 1987: "Most women are bird-brained. It's rare to find a woman with very good mental agility."

Of course, many men don't want women to be too clever. As Dr Samuel Johnson put it: "A man is generally better pleased when his wife puts a good dinner on his table than when she starts talking Greek."

Conductor Sir Thomas Beecham had little time for female musicians. He pointed out: "If the ladies are ill-favoured, the men don't want to play next to them. If they are well-favoured, they can't."

Not all the anti-feminine quotes are from men. The 17th century Queen Christina of Sweden commented: "I love men, not because they are men but because they are not women."

A century later, Madame de Stael was writing: "I am glad that I am not a man act I should be obliged to marry a woman." And in

Noel Coward: "Certain women should be struck regularly — like gongs."

1987, actress Rula Lenska said: "If we could guarantee a boy, I'd definitely get pregnant."

Many men's view that women are out to trap a man into marriage is confirmed by writer Jane Austen, who wrote: "A lady's imagination is very rapid. It jumps from admiration to love and from love to matrimony in a moment."

Men's violence to women is well illustrated by Ms Morgan's book, although actress Charlotte Rampling is quoted as saying: "If women got a slap around the face more often, they would be a lot more reasonable."

In 1954, Commander Hatherill of Scotland Yard commented: "There are only about 20 murders a year in London and many not at all serious. Some are just husbands killing their wives."

Robert Mueller once asked a Burmese why women, after centuries of following their men, now walk ahead of them. The reply was that there were many unexploded land mines since the war.

On rape, many of the men quoted inferred that women often asked for it. A Brazilian judge in 1975 said: "In today's world, it is the women and not the men who do the seducing. The real seducers are the daughters of Eve who sashay their way through God's world with their mini-skirts, low-cut and see-through blouses and tighttight pants for the sole purpose of exhibiting their curvaceous bodies to attract the attention and eyes of man."

The Art Buchwald Column

Roe vs Wade

THE Supreme Court ruling on abortion did not have the calming effect on people that the justices for the majority opinion had hoped for. More Americans seem to want to kill each other in the name of "the right to life" and "freedom of choice" than ever before.

The day after the court ruling, a group of typical US citizens gathered around a bonfire on Cape Cod to cook frankfurters and eat potato salad.

We would have probably gotten through the evening until one of the group declared, "May Roe and Wade lose their medical benefits in a Blue Cross computer."

"What did Roe and Wade ever do to you?" another person wanted to know.

"Roe and Wade kill babies," the first one asserted.

"Roe land Wade don't kill babies. It's the Supreme Court that kills laws that kill babies."

The man on the beach blanket said, "According to Justice Balckmun, we're facing a loss of liberty and equality for millions of women who will no longer have any say about what happens to their own bodies."

A professed Right-to-Lifer announced, "Women should think about Roe and Wade before they go to bed with a guy."

"Thinking about Roe and Wade doesn't prevent someone from conceiving. I know many girls who thought about Roe and Wade and still got pregnant."

"If women don't make love, the Supreme Court wouldn't have to deal with this problem."

"If men didn't make love, the justices wouldn't have to decide when life begins," a nice lady snarled.

Another woman added, "Everybody knows that life begins when the guy says, 'How about it?' and the girl says 'Okay.' If the Supreme Court was really concerned about unborn children, it would forbid people from bedding down with each other for pleasure."

"You can't police everyone. After all, there are millions of us and only nine of them."

I said, "What I don't like about this is that it has turned man against woman, and woman against politician, and politicians against their wives. This country could return to the Vietnam war days with people fighting in the streets and hitting each other over the head with 'Save Life' signs. In order to save one child, the anti-abortionists may kill 60 adults."

A man sitting next to me, roasting marshmallows, muttered, "And we will too."

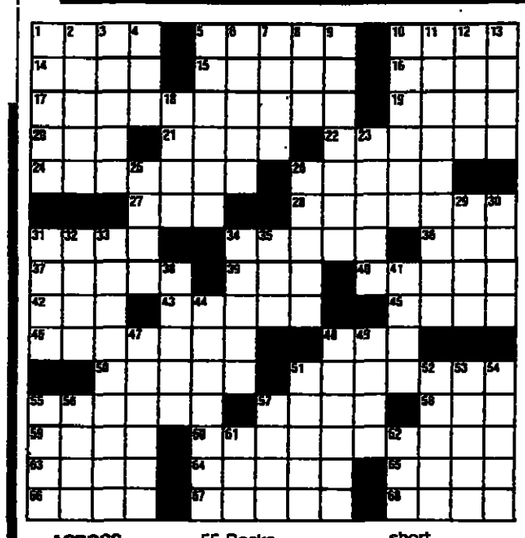
A pro-choice woman said, "Members of the Supreme Court indicate that they will soon rule against all abortions. But they won't say who pays for the child after birth. If they want to do justice to the unborn, they should set up a trust fund from their salaries for each unwanted child until the child is 18 years old. That way, when a 13-year-old kid gives birth, at least she'll know that her baby will be provided for."

Another member of the group remarked, "I don't think abortion is anything to get too excited about. If we can all agree on it, why can't everyone else?"

"You're right," agreed the marshmallow roaster. "It may cause a difference of opinion among grown-up people but Roe vs Wade is nothing to burn the flag over."

1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Sci. sites
5 Played Portia
10 Letters on an invitation
14 Native American
15 Milton of TV
16 Willow
17 Hot under the collar
19 Bering Sea growler
20 Neat's-foot —
21 "— a Song Go Out of My Heart"
22 Cash back
24 Stirred up
26 Hit and rebound
27 Hoped for reply
28 Incinerators
31 Anagram for each
34 Ideology
36 Bunny's mother
37 Kind of Guard
39 Lew Wallace's Ben
40 Kindle
42 Wing thing
43 Doesn't add
45 Links event
46 Like some beans
48 Playoff VIP
50 Standout at a ball
51 Honored, in a way
55 Rocks
57 Is up, in baseball
58 Big bird
59 — blazes (exceedingly)
60 Too hot to handle?
63 Bakery artist
64 Dorian Gray's creator
65 Connection
66 Augur
67 Mythical creature
68 A Williams

DOWN
1 Gray wolves
2 Like some anchors
3 Yale song word
4 Tack or gather
5 Poplars
6 Handed over
7 Fox's gait?
8 North Pole worker
9 Burn, in a way
10 A winner's is blue
11 Excited
12 Green, in Grenoble
13 Use a beeper
18 Goddess of victory
23 Fenway muff
25 Certain loaves
26 Some hams, for short
29 Pasadena posy
30 Watched
31 Maple genus
32 Porter
33 Like most cockeyed schemes
34 Rake over the coals
35 Stick-in-the-mud's place?
38 Sheer fabric
41 Stumbler's word
44 Softens up
47 Patriot Paul
48 — Nature
49 Hepatica holder
51 Overdue
52 Grand — National Park
53 Edit
54 Fuddy—
55 Smooth-tongued
56 Puerto —
57 Word with sun or corn
61 By way of
62 Garb for a Bedouin

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q 10 7
♡ Void
◊ Q J 6 5
♣ A 9 7 3

WEST
♠ 9 6 3
♡ A Q 10 6 4 3
◊ 9
♣ Q J 8

EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♡ J 9 2
◊ 10 8 3 2
♣ K 10 6

SOUTH
♠ J 2
♡ K 8 7 5
◊ A K 7 4
♣ 5 4 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ◊	2 ♡
6 ◊	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Many years ago we came across a bit of verse about someone attempting the impossible, only to find it couldn't be done. But sometimes someone lends a helping hand.

West's overcall suggested to North that most of South's points would be working. He decided, therefore, that slam should have reasonable play, and got there by the shortest possible route.

West led the queen of clubs, ducked in dummy, and it held the trick as East signalled with the ten. The club continuation was taken by the ace, and the king-ace of trumps revealed the bad break. Things looked bleak.

Declarer tried three rounds of spades, discarding his losing club. When that held, he ruffed a club and was in ecstasy when that suit also divided evenly, setting up a long club on the table. All that remained was to draw the last two trumps and claim the contract, since all dummy's black-suit cards were winners.

Declarer did superbly to cash in on a lucky distribution. As is often the case, however, we must credit the defense with an assist.

West's lead of the queen of clubs surely marked him with the jack. Therefore, East could have overtaken with the king to shift to a heart. As the cards lie, that would have resulted in the slam going down. Declarer would have been forced to ruff in dummy, shortening the trumps there to three. Now, there is no way declarer can come to 12 tricks. Try it!

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

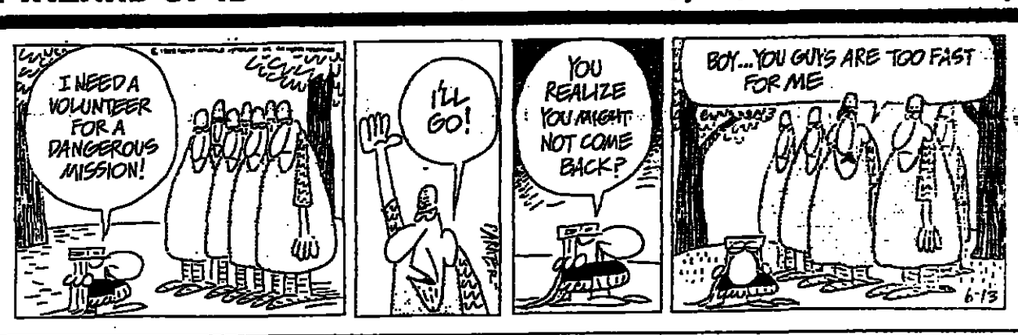
C	A	R	L		P	R	O	P				D	N	A
A	L	O	U		R	A	N	U	P		F	R	O	M
B	E	A	T		E	R	A	T	O		A	U	T	O
	G	R	E	E	C	E		A	S	S	U	M	E	S
			S	N	E	E	R		E	O	N	S		
A	L	M	O	N	D		E	D	U	C	A	T	E	
N	E	O	N		E	M	B	A	R	K		I	A	M
T	O	N	G			O	I	L			B	C	D	E
S	I	T		A	D	O	R	E	S		A	K	I	N
	V	I	O	L	E	N	T		P	A	S	S	E	D
		C	R	O	C		H	A	U	L	S			
C	H	E	E	T	A	H		S	T	A	I	R	S	
A	U	L	A		M	E	R	I	T		N	E	A	P
M	E	L	D		P	R	I	D	E		E	D	G	E
E	D	O				A	P	E	R		T	O	O	T

"I hope he'll be OK . . . It's his first time away from the telly!"

"What do we do for entertainment around here?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

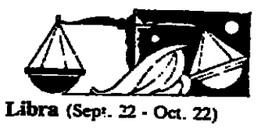
YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have a great deal to do. However do not allow yourself to be put into a hustle, just get on with it. Do all you can to avoid confusion. Be tactful.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

This is a good period for you only do not think that you are bound to be lucky. You should try to concentrate on essentials. Take every opportunity you can to relax. Be a little more cautious.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You are more liable to a stomach upset so take extra care. Also seek to ensure you get all the rest you need without being lazy. Try to use just a little more commonsense. Be helpful.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You will tend to get bored rather easily and should do all you can to maintain your interest. You will find the solution to a problem only by looking at it from a new angle. You should not spurn good advice. Be a little less aggressive.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are rather prone to mislaying things and should take positive steps against doing so. Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Avoid trying to do things by force. Be moderate.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Others will not behave as you would wish them to behave but you will be able to cope. You are likely to mistake the place where you have an appointment, so check. You will meet someone you like but it is unlikely to be love at first sight. Be practical.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should not strain your eyes, but do avoid wearing glasses unless you have to. You will be able to take advantage of what seems like a good opportunity, but do not let yourself be deceived. Do not take umbrage. Be amenable.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You are liable to have trouble with your ears and should take good care you do not neglect any infection. Having made a promise keep it even if it isn't easy to do so. Watch out for those who are seeking to deceive you. Be polite.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will find it hard to keep your mind on any one thing and you should make an effort to do so. Do not confuse something that is with something that is not important. Watch out for mistakes, mostly made by others. Be sensible.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will feel in a rather better mood than you have done of late. You should try to act more according to the dictates of reason. Your lucky numbers are 43 and 38. Do not eat too many sweet things. Be considerate.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Look more closely at things and do not judge by first appearances. There will be plenty of distractions but you must try to resist them. Use but do not place too much reliance upon electronic aids. Be fair.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Make sure you do not abandon your principles. However you should not mistake prejudices for principles. Avoid trying to do too many things all at once. Be resourceful.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

ACCOMMODATION

Available

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street. One room in a 2 bedroom flat for Goan, Mangalorean bachelors or a couple. Tele. 264368. 8 am - 1 pm, 4 - 7 pm.
(AT1-48554-3)

FEW Kheitan. One room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities for a Pakistani bachelor to share with a single person. Rent KD25. Tele. Shafiq Chaudhry, 262800, 9 am - 3 pm.
(AT-48588-2)

SALMIYA, behind the fire brigade. Independent room with tele. facilities for a single Indian bachelor to share with a Goan family. Tele. 5629141, after 5 pm.
(AT3-48582-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq behind the City Restaurant. Accommodation with CAC for 2 Tamil speaking bachelors. Rent KD50 each. Tele. 810350 ext. 16.
(AT3-48579-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

KERALA, Calicut, new design 3 bedroom villa with bathroom and toilet on 42 cent land near Canal road. Tele. Shankar, 5748297.
(AT3-48591-3)

SALMIYA, two bedroom flat with hall fully furnished with tele. for sale. Rent KD 150. Tele. Mr Mohammad, 5749570, 7 - 10 am, 4 - 10 pm.
(AT1-48541-3)

2-BEDROOM flat (830 sq.ft) near Mapusa bus stand - Goa - and 2-bedroom flat (620 sq.ft) at Bhayandar, Bombay for sale. For further details Tele. Mr. Pinto, 2422757.
(AT2-48576-3)

SOFA set, coffee tables, bedside tables, washing machine lamp shade. Tele. Pankhurst, 4844324,4849097, 8 am - 4 pm.
(AT2-48564-2)

Cars

TOYOTA Cressida 1978 model, automatic, insured up to March 1990, blue, in very good condition KD400 ono. Tele. Mr Taher, 4879590.
(AT2-48573-2)

OLDSMOBILE Cutlass 1975, AC, manual, 2 door, silver, registered up to Dec '89, in good condition, KD250. Tele. Mr Fernandes, 4736358, 8 am - 2 pm.
(AT2-48562-3)

TOYOTA Corona 1982, AC, manual steering gear, bench seat, cream colour, with new tyres, in excellent condition. KD 650 ono, cash. Tele. Dr Naidu, 4842578 after 2 pm.
(AT1-48547-3)

RENAULT 18GTX 2000cc, 1984, manual, 5 gears, AC, white, 81,000, kms, insured up to August 1990, in excellent condition KD800. Tele. Mukhtyar, 3712754, 6 pm onwards.
(AT2-48557-3)

CHEVROLET Impala 1983, fully automatic, dark blue, 72000 kms in excellent condition insured for 1 year. KD1450. Tele. 9020287 any time.
(AT3-48572-3)

SERVICES

Baby Sitting

CREATIVE daycare available from 5th August with an experienced American lady in Jabriya. New facilities,ages 2-4. Tele. 5333782.
(AT3-48583-3)

Transport

AVAILABLE from Abbasiya, Kuwait City to Fahaheel, Ahmadi to suit ministry timings. Tele. 3721500 off, 4330167, res.
(AT2-48561-3)

REQUIRED for a nursery going boy from Nugra to the City and back, 8 am - 1 pm. Tele. Mrs. Benna, 2633268, 3 - 8 pm.
(AT3-48586-3)

REQUIRED from Amman Street/ Salmiya petrol station to Shuwaikh vegetable market at 7.30 am 12.30 pm, 4-7 pm. Tele. Mr Alex, 4845594.
(AT2-48556-2)

REQUIRED from Fahaheel (near the water filling station) to Sabhan industrial area and back. Office time 6 am to 3 pm. Tele. 9039023.
(AT2-48578-3)

REQUIRED for a lady from Nugra to Hemple Paints, Shuwaikh and back, 8 am to 5 pm. Tele. Johnson, 2654724, 3.00 - 4.30 pm or after 9 pm.
(AT1-48546-3)

REQUIRED for 2 persons from Sharq to Ghazali Street (Citroen showroom) 7.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 7 pm. Tele. Brian, 2448738 after 2 pm.
(AT3-48581-3)

Tuition

TUTOR required for an English medium student of 8th class. Tele. Mr. Nazar, 4831386.
(AT3-48585-3)

NURSERY classes in a CAC flat given by a graduate teacher, in Shark, behind the Burgan Bank H.O. Tele. 2422757.
(AT2-48576-3)

PIANO lessons for children and adults available. Tele. 5632069.
(AT3-48575-3)

TUTION and babysitting available behind the Sharq fire station. For further details tele. Mrs Rosy, 4747143, res. Mr Sadwelkar, 2613739 res after 7.30 pm.
(AT2-48545-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

DRIVER, Sri Lankan, working experience in Sri Lanka and Yanbu port, obtained heavy licence, Saudi and Kuwait light licence with transferable visa No. 20. Seeks fulltime job. Tele. Mahalingam, 2420281.
(AT2-48553-3)

Vacant

DRIVER required for a Kuwaiti family. Must have Kuwaiti driving licence and transferable residence. Tele. 5312840, off.
(AT2-48558-3)

MAID required for an American family to live-in. Experience with an expatriate family preferred. Tele. Nina, 2402550, 8 am - 4 pm.
(AT3-48584-3)

MAID required for a European family to take care of 2 small children and do general housework, to live-in. Must speak fluent English and have a transferable visa. Tele. 5657364, 1 - 3 pm.
(AT2-48570-3)

MAID required for a small Indian family with one child to live-in. Must speak English and have a transferable residence. Tele. 5624045.
(AT2-48561-2)

MAID required, preferably Goan for an Indian family from 8 am - 4.30 pm. Tele. 2421834, after 5 pm.
(AT1-48526-3)

DRIVER required for a Kuwaiti family in Rumaithiya, Area 7, Street 75, House No. 9. Tele. Juma Ibrahim, 5615250.
(AT3-48592-3)

PETS

GERMAN shepherd (Alsatian) male, 7 months, needs home (villa or farm). Tele. 4838267 on the weekend or after 6 pm weekdays.
(AT1-48555-3)

LOST

PASSPORT No. W 037667 in the name of Sodinapalli Ramakrishna Reddy, Indian. Finder please tele. 4811440, 4896950
(AT2-48569-2)

WANTED

CAR, jeep or vanette box of any model to purchase by instalments immediately. Tele. Saeed Shaikh, 5612240.
(AT3-48589-3)

JADDADEH INT'L TRAD. CORP.
SAMPAGUITA
CARGO EXPRESS
SPECIAL DOOR TO DOOR TO PHILS.
Mga Kabayan, kami po ay nagkilingkod sa inyo ng SIGURADO, MATATAG, MABILIS at MAAYOS na serbisiyo ng Pangkaragatan at Pahimpapawid na kargamiento at Para patungo sa lahat ng panig sa PILIPINAS
Ang inyong tagapaglingkod
240-96-83

REQUIRED
A leading Trading and Contracting Co. requires the following:
1. **Drivers with general driving licences**
2. **Drivers with construction licences**
3. **Heavy equipments diesel mechanic with 10 years experience**
4. **Heavy equipment hydraulic mechanic with 10 years experience**

All applicants must have transferable residence. For more details call tel. 4747552, 4749750, 4749775.

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool
Qatar Real Estate
Tele. 2406592, 2406593

JOIN THE FUTURE

COMPUTER COURSES	HOURS	K.D.
INTRO TO P.C.	5	20/-
DOS OPERATIONS	20	10/-
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INTRO TO DBASE IV	30	100/-
BASIC PROGRAMMING	30	60/-
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- OPEN 14 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
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- FREE UNLIMITED PRACTICAL TRAINING
- FLEXIBLE TIMING TO SUIT YOUR AVAILABILITY

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Al Ibrahim Taxi
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International Freight Forwarder
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ABUGHOSH INT'L
PHILIPPINES
484-3447
SARAH

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For all your shifting with transportation, painting, wall papering, carpet & villa cleaning. We are at your service, with skilled workers.
Contact Mr Stanley tel: 4748877/ 4731004. Timings: 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 - 8.00 pm. Al Nawasim Trdg.

FOR RENT
New villa in Jabriya. Suitable for an embassy or European family.
Please call Mr. Hussain
3263176/3263206, Off. 2552065, Res.

LADIES' KEEP FIT CLASSES
at
KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
Sunday & Tuesday: 6 -7 pm
Thursday : 3 -4 pm
KD 2.000 per session plus FREE USE of La Palma pool afterwards. In addition, FREE USE of the pool on Tuesdays.
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FOR SALE
An equipped shop good for ladies tailoring shop or any other commercial business. Area 25 square metres. Monthly rent KD152.000. Wanted KD400,000 only.
Dawliya Souk — Mezzanaine — Shop No 85.
Tel. 2401568 Arshad

REQUIRED
For a Kuwaiti-based English Co. An English female familiar with office duties. Full training will be provided.
Please call: 2409686/4.

Medical laboratory technician wanted
Wanted assistant/lab. technologist for a medical lab. Minimum 3 years experience with Bachelors/ Masters degree.
Send C.V. to: P.O. Box 7456 64005 Fahaheel Kuwait

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MURA NA MABILIS PA!! DOOR TO DOOR PHILIPPINES
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FOR RENT
Big villas, small villas, half villas, big flats with swimming pool & stores in all areas in Kuwait.
Messilah Beach Real Estate
2401858 - 2408510

REQUIRED
1- Sales representative (for house utensils)
2- Sales representative (for readymade garments)
Call 2446622 from 9 to 11.30 am and 4.30 to 6.30 pm.

URGENTLY REQUIRED AUTO MECHANIC
with complete knowledge of engine & gear box.
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Al Remal Zahbie Garage
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Best airfreight rates and most convenient routes
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Fully furnished 3-bedroom flat above villa in Kheitan area. Wall to wall carpet, curtains, furniture, cooker, fridge and washing machine all inclusive. KD. 300 per month.
Ring
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Bring film for DNP and get your free style gift snap.
Special facility for Civil ID photographs
- First time in Kuwait; 4 different poses at no extra cost * Quality prints
- Quick guaranteed service * All makes of cameras * Wide variety of albums including wedding albums and many more.

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REQUIRED
Indian secretary
Fluent Arabic-speaking. Accuracy in typing and knowledge of bank drafts. Experience not less than 5 years. Transferable visa a must.
Tel: 2625074

For your advertisement
Please contact Advertising Department
Tel: 4816326/ 4816327

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Oh dear! I should have called Alghanim...
No one does it better. The biggest IATA freight agent in Kuwait.
Alghanim
Sea-Freight-Air
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Customer Services Tel: **4745533**
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A leading industrial company
REQUIRES
HEAVY DUTY DRIVERS
with transferable residence permit
Please call Tel. 4835488 ext. 256/230

FOR RENT
Villa - sea view, nr. SAS Hotel 3 beds, large lounge, sep. dining room, fitted wardrobes, garden, maid's room, furnished diwaniyah, fitted kitchen, covered car port, carpets, curtains ..... KD 800
JABRIYAH: Two adjoining two storey villas - 5 beds, lounge, sep. dining room, entrance hall, mulhaq ..... KD 600 each
SALWA: Fully furnished 3 bed half villa, very beautiful ..... KD 550
MISHREF & BAYAN: Villas 4 beds, garden, mulhaq, etc ..... KD 700
SURRA: Villa near American School 4 beds etc. ..... KD 800
Many flats & other villas. Ring for details, Ken Winston 5740256/7 or 5625316

REQUIRED PROGRAMMERS
With knowledge of C language and clipper, must have experience and be familiar with PC's and Lacal area network.
Please call 4838470/1 for an appointment.

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2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD5

Conditions:
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3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.
4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or cancellations will be made after publication.
5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.
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Advertisement designer
For an English daily newspaper, full or part-time. Must have previous experience in the same field.
Personal interview from 6 to 8 pm at
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Dar Al Seyassah building
Shuwaikh
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SA PINAKAMABILIS NA BIYAHE NG BARKO MULA KUWAIT *HANGGANG* PILIPINAS.
25 NA ARAW LAMANG!!!
- WALANG MAWAWALA
- DI MABABAWASAN
- AT DI MASISIRAAN

Tumawag lang sa:
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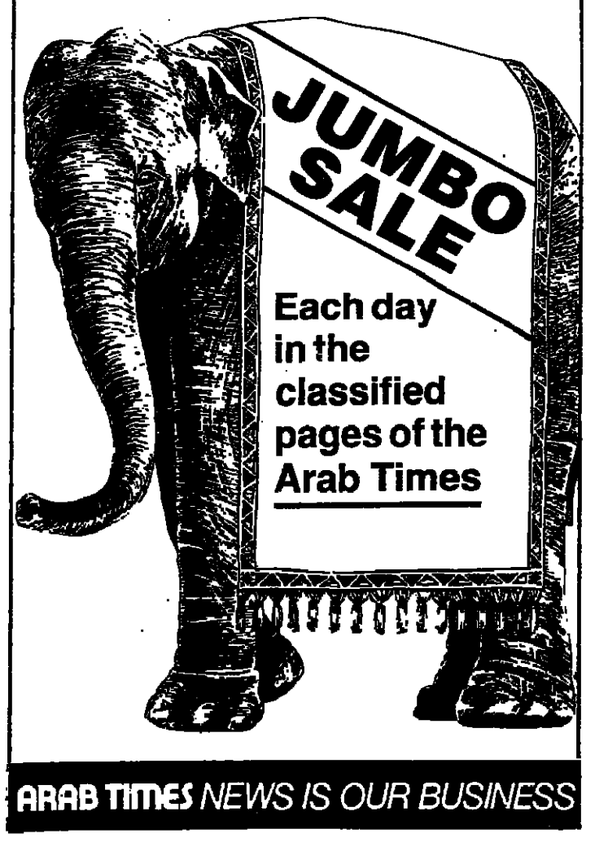
SOUK AL WATIYA, P.O. BOX 4320 SAFAT, KUWAIT
TEL. NOS. 2421427 - 2421428/2408168 - 2405916



فسانہ بہت خوبصورت تخلیق تھا مگر اس کی پیدا کردہ خرابیوں نے مجھے 'مغموم' کردیا ہے، امرتا

پنجابی کی معروف شاعرہ اور ادیب امرتا پریتم [illegible]

شاعرہ، تخلیق نگار، آزادیٔ نسواں کی علمبردار، پنجابی ادب کی عظیم شخصیت امرتا پریتم [illegible] پاکستان [illegible] ابتدائی تعلیم [illegible] حاصل کی۔ [illegible] لکھنے کی ابتداء ۱۹۳۵ء میں کی۔ اب تک ان کی [illegible] شائع ہو چکی ہیں۔ جن میں ۳۰ ناول، ۱۸ مجموعہ کلام [illegible] شامل ہیں۔ [illegible] ان کی تخلیقات کے تراجم ۳۴ مختلف زبانوں میں ہو چکے ہیں۔ تقسیم ہند کے بعد آپ بھارت ہجرت کر گئیں [illegible] دہلی میں رہائش اختیار کی۔ [illegible] ریڈیو سے منسلک ہونے کے بعد [illegible] طویل عرصہ [illegible] گزارا۔

امرتا ہندوستان کی پہلی خاتون مصنفہ ہیں جنہوں نے بھارت کا [illegible] ادبی ایوارڈ حاصل کیا [illegible] صدر [illegible] ایوارڈ [illegible] حاصل ہوا [illegible] راجیہ سبھا میں [illegible] نشست [illegible]

امرتا کے ساتھ زیر نظر انٹرویو میں انہوں نے بھارت میں پنجابی زبان کے مستقبل، فیض اور منٹو کے بارے میں اپنے تاثرات اور ایسے افراد کے بارے میں جو ان کی زندگی سے گہرا تعلق رکھتے ہیں کے بارے میں بہت کچھ بتایا ہے جسے قارئین کی دلچسپی کے مدنظر سوال وجواب کی صورت میں پیش کیا جارہا ہے۔

س۔ آپ نے گریجویشن سے پہلے ہی کالج کو خیرباد کہہ دیا، تعلیم مکمل کیوں نہیں کی؟

ج۔ "میں [illegible] میں بھی [illegible] اور پہلے پرچہ کا امتحان دے رہی تھی کہ اچانک مجھ پر کھلا کہ امتحانات تو صرف میری یادداشت کا امتحان ہیں [illegible] میں نے اپنی ذات سے سوال کیا کہ مجھے ان نظموں کے رٹنے کی ضرورت ہے؟ مجھے محسوس ہوا کہ ایسی نظمیں میں خود کہہ سکتی ہوں۔ میں سخت [illegible] ہوگئی اور میں نے پڑھائی چھوڑنے کا فیصلہ کرڈالا۔

س۔ نظمیں لکھنے کی ابتداء کب ہوئی؟

ج۔ [illegible] میں بھی جیسا کہ آپ جانتے ہیں بچے کس طرح چاند کے ساتھ رشتہ جوڑ لیتے ہیں۔ میں نے چاند کے وجود کو الفاظ میں [illegible] میری والدہ جن کا انتقال ہوچکا تھا [illegible]۔ کچھ عرصہ بعد میں نے اس میں ایک اور رشتے کا اضافہ کیا [illegible]۔ تب میں نے پہلی نظم [illegible] لکھی۔ ایک دن جب میں سکول جانے کے لئے گھر سے نکل رہی تھی میرے والد نے کچھ پیسے میری جیب میں رکھنے [illegible] میری نظم [illegible] انہوں نے وہ کاغذ کا پرزہ نکال لیا اور اس کی بابت دریافت کیا۔ میرے انکار پر انہوں نے میرے منہ پر ایک تھپڑ رسید کیا اور کہا کہ میں نے جھوٹ بولا [illegible]۔ میں نے انہیں بتایا کہ وہ میرے تخیل کی پرواز ہے۔ میرے والد سردار کرتار سنگھ پنجابی اور برج بھاشا کے اچھے شاعر تھے۔ میں نے ردیف قافیہ اور اوزان کا علم ان سے سیکھا۔ انہوں نے مجھے اپنے ثقافتی ورثے کی تعلیم دی۔

س۔ آپ کی نظم "اج آکھاں وارث شاہ نوں" بھارت اور پاکستان میں بے پناہ مقبول ہوئی لیکن اس کے بعد پاکستان میں کوئی نظم شائع نہیں ہوئی۔ ایسا کیوں؟ کیا اس کے بعد آپ نے لکھنا ترک کردیا؟

ج۔ تقسیم سے قبل میری نظموں کا ایک مجموعہ "چیتر تن" لاہور میں شائع ہوا لیکن اس کے بعد میرا کوئی مجموعہ پاکستان میں شائع نہیں ہو سکا اس کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ میں نے لکھنا ترک کردیا۔ درحقیقت اس کے بعد میں نے بڑی سنجیدہ نظمیں لکھیں جو [illegible] اکثر پنجابی تخلیقات میں شائع کی ہیں اور میری ایک کتاب کا ترجمہ فرانسیسی زبان میں کیا جارہا ہے۔

س۔ پاکستان میں آپ کا افسانہ اردو میں کئی بار شائع ہوچکا ہے۔ ان کتابوں میں آپ کی خود نوشت (رسیدی ٹکٹ) بھی شامل ہے۔ ایسا محسوس ہوتا ہے پاکستان میں آپ کی شاعری سے زیادہ نثر عزیز رکھی جاتی ہے۔

ج۔ ہاں! لیکن تراجم انتہائی ناقص ہیں۔ مثال کے طور پر میری "خود نوشت" کو ہی لیں اس کتاب میں میری نظموں کے تراجم درست نہیں۔ میں نے پبلشرز کو بارہا یاد دہانی کروائی کہ انہیں بھارت سے ترجمہ بھجوا سکتی ہوں لیکن کوئی جواب نہیں آیا بلکہ انہوں نے کتاب کی ایک کاپی بھی مجھے بھیجنا گوارا نہ کیا۔

س۔ آپ نے اپنی خود نوشت میں کافی نام تحریر کئے ہیں

ج۔ (بات کاٹتے ہوئے) اردو ترجمہ جو پاکستان میں شائع ہوا مکمل نہیں تھا۔ مثال کے طور پر میں نے اپنے دوست سجاد حیدر کے بارے میں لکھا، انہوں نے وہ حصہ حذف کر دیا۔ میں نے متعدد جگہوں پر ان کی بابت تحریر کیا تھا لیکن وہ حصے حذف کر دیئے گئے اور کتاب کا حسن برباد کر دیا۔ میں نے ان کے بارے میں بڑی محبت اور پیار سے لکھا تھا۔ آپ تو وکیل ہیں آپ اس مسئلہ کو پاکستان میں اٹھائیں۔

س۔ آپ نے اپنی خود نوشت میں کئی جگہوں پر ساحر لدھیانوی کا ذکر کیا ہے۔

ج۔ میں نے حال ہی میں خود نوشت دوبارہ ترتیب دی ہے جو اب لائف اینڈ ٹائم کے عنوان سے شائع ہوئی ہے۔ اس میں نئے حصوں کا اضافہ کیا گیا ہے۔ اس میں ساحر کی وفات کے بعد کی باتیں لکھی ہیں۔ میں نے اندرا گاندھی کے متعلق بھی لکھا ہے ان دونوں کی اموات میرے لئے سانحہ سے کم نہیں تھی ان کے بارے میں کئی جذباتی نظمیں میں نے تحریر کی تھیں۔

س۔ کہا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے ساحر لدھیانوی کے ساتھ گہرے مراسم تھے۔

ج۔ جی ہاں۔ وہ میرا دوست تھا جیسا کہ اردو میں کہتے ہیں؟ "میں اپنے خیالوں کے صدقے"

س۔ کیا ساحر بھی آپ کے بارے میں ایسا ہی محسوس کرتے تھے۔

ج۔ جی ہاں۔ کچھ اطوار سے "ہاں" اور "نہیں" بھی۔ وہ کوئی بڑا فیصلہ نہ کر سکے۔ ان میں حوصلہ نہیں تھا لیکن کچھ پذیرائی موجود تھی۔

س۔ کیا ساحر نے آپ کے بارے میں کوئی نظم کہی۔

ج۔ بہت سی۔ ایک مرتبہ ساحر دہلی آئے۔ امروز (امرتا پریتم کا پرانا ساتھی) اور میں ان سے ہوٹل میں ملنے گئے۔ انہوں نے تین گلاس ڈرنکس کے بنائے۔ ہم نے ایک ڈیڑھ گھنٹہ ان کے ساتھ گزارا اور گھر لوٹے۔ اس رات گیارہ بجے انہوں نے مجھے ٹیلی فون پر بتایا کہ وہ انہی تین گلاسوں سے پی رہے ہیں اور یہ نظم لکھی ہے۔

مرے ساتھی خالی جام
تم آباد گھروں کے باسی
ہم آوارہ اور بدنام

بعد میں یہ نظم فلم میں لی گئی۔

س۔ کیا آپ نے بھی ساحر کے لئے نظمیں کہیں۔

ج۔ جی ہاں۔ کئی نظمیں۔ مثلاً "گلی لوتے پسلاں پسرلگا" (یعنی جب اجالا پھیلنے لگا تو محسوس ہوا کہ یہ پسلا پسر ہے)

س۔ آپ کی پاکستانی ہم عصروں کے بارے میں کیا رائے ہے؟

ج۔ فیض میرے دوست بن گئے تھے جب وہ ایک بار بھارت آئے تو میں نے ٹیلی ویژن کے لئے ان کا انٹرویو لیا۔ میرے خیال میں اپنی زندگی میں پہلی بار انہوں نے کھلے عام پنجابی میں گفتگو کی۔ یہ انٹرویو اسی کمرے میں لیا گیا کیونکہ اس روز ریڈیو کا سٹوڈیو خالی نہیں تھا آپ یہ لیمپ شیڈ دیکھ رہے ہیں جس پر فیض کا

ع..... "گلوں میں رنگ بھرے"

امروز نے پینٹ کیا۔ میں نے وہیں بیٹھے ابتدا کی۔ جب انٹرویو ختم ہوا تو فیض نے کہا۔ "کھڑکیاں کھول دو چائے والی لے جاؤ اور کچھ وہسکی لے آؤ۔ وہسکی انڈیلنے کے بعد میں نے فیض سے پوچھا کہ انہوں نے کیسے اور کس کے لئے نظمیں لکھیں۔ انہوں نے سیالکوٹ میں اپنی ایک محبت کا ذکر کیا۔ انہوں نے بتایا ایک لڑکی تھی جس کے لئے شاعری کی لیکن آخر کار اس کی شادی امیر گھرانے میں ہوگئی انہوں نے اس لڑکی سے متعلق بڑی تفصیل سے بتایا اور اس کی شادی کے بعد فیض کے ایک قریبی دوست کی خواہر نسبتی انگلینڈ سے اپنی بہن کو ملنے آئی اور بس! انہوں نے اس سے شادی کرلی۔

س... آپ کی رائے میں ادیب کو جنر کے ساتھ تجربات کرنے چاہئیں؟

ج.... جی ہاں وہ تو کرنا ضروری ہیں۔ کیونکہ ادیب خود کو دہرانے کا متحمل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ ہر شخص سب کچھ جانتا ہے لیکن آپ کلیہ جانتا کہ کیسے کہا جائے۔ یہی چیز آپ کو ادیب بناتی ہے۔ موضوعات نئے نہیں ہیں لیکن کہنے کا پیرایہ ہی بات آپ کو مختلف بناتی ہے۔

س... آپ کے خیال میں وہ مسئلہ کیا ہے جس کا آپ کے ناولوں کے کردار سامنا کرتے ہیں؟

ج.... بنیادی موضوع مرد اور عورت کا تعلق ہے جو بڑھ کر افراد کے درمیان اور پھر پھیل کر ملکوں کے درمیان تعلقات پر محیط ہوتا ہے۔

س... آپ کے خیال میں مرد عورت کے تعلقات میں اس قدر پیچیدگی کیوں ہے؟

ج.... کیونکہ عورت اب تک ادھوری ہے اور کچھ ایسا ہی حال مرد کا بھی ہے۔ ہم جوانی کی دلکشی اور خوبصورتی یا کسی لذت کے حصول کا نام محبت رکھ لیتے ہیں لیکن جو چیز "محبت" ہے وہ ایک پورے مرد اور پوری عورت کے درمیان ہی جنم لے سکتی ہے۔

س.... آپ کا "پوری عورت" کا کیا تصور ہے؟

ج۔ ایسی عورت جو معاشی، جذباتی اور ثقافتی لحاظ سے خود کفیل ہو، آزادی بھیک میں لینے یا چھیننے کی چیز نہیں یہ دونوں صورتوں میں حاصل نہیں ہوتی بلکہ تن کے غبار سے اٹھتی ہے۔ ایک مرتبہ امریکن عورت مجھ سے ملنے کے لئے آئی اس نے کہا "آپ لوگ سمجھتے ہوں گے کہ امریکی عورتیں بہت آزاد ہیں لیکن ایسا نہیں ہے" میں نے کہا آپ ٹھیک کہتی ہیں یقیناً یہ سچ نہیں۔ اگر ایسا ہوتا تو امریکی رویہ دوسرے ملکوں کے ساتھ یکساں برتاؤ کا ہوتا۔ آزاد ملک ہونے کی حیثیت سے وہ دوسرے ممالک کی آزادی کا بھی احترام کرتے۔

ساحر میں حوصلہ نہیں تھا لیکن کچھ پذیرائی موجود تھی

س... آپ نے پنجاب کی تقسیم پر ایک انتہائی جذباتی نظم کہی ہے لیکن آج کل بھارتی پنجاب میں جو کچھ ہو رہا ہے اس کے بارے میں بھی کچھ کہنا ہے؟

ج.... جی ہاں میں نے کئی نظمیں کہی ہیں مثلاً

رب خیر کرے میرے ویہڑے دی
کہ جس دا رانجھا واہرہ کیتا
اوتھے دھک ستے کھیڑے دی
رب خیر کرے میرے ویہڑے دی

س.... سعادت حسن منٹو نے تقسیم کی بابت پراثر افسانے تخلیق کئے کیا آپ انہیں ذاتی طور پر جانتی تھیں؟

ج.... نہیں میں ان سے کبھی نہیں ملی تھی۔ لیکن تقسیم کے بعد ان کی جانب سے ایک خوبصورت خط مجھے ضرور ملا۔ یہی وہ خط تھا جس میں انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ زندگی میں کبھی نہیں روئے لیکن میری نظم پڑھنے کے بعد۔ ع

غلاماں دے ویڑیاں دا چندرما پھکا پے جاندا اے

میں نے انہیں شکریہ کا خط لکھا۔ ان کی وفات کے بعد ایک پبلشر آئے اور منٹو کی کتاب کا تعارف لکھنے پر اصرار کیا مجھے ان کی تحریر بہت پسند ہے بالخصوص وہ افسانے جو انہوں نے تقسیم برصغیر پر لکھے "کھول دو" اور "ٹوبہ ٹیک سنگھ" جب میں نے فرمائش پر پیش لفظ لکھنا شروع کیا تو پنجابی ادب کی تمام نمبردار جماعتوں نے مجھے منع کیا لیکن ان کے مشوروں کے باوجود میں نے بہت دلکش تعارف لکھا۔

س... کیا آپ نے کبھی اور پاکستانی ادیب کے بارے میں کچھ لکھا ہے۔

ج.... جی ہاں۔ میں نے فخر زمان کے بارے میں لکھا ہے۔ میں ان کی "بے وطن" اور "بندی وان" کو پسند کرتی ہوں۔ میں نے مظہر اسلام اور سعیدہ گزدر اور سارا شگفتہ کے بارے میں بھی لکھا ہے۔ میری نئی کتاب "ایک تھی سارا" جلد ہی شائع ہورہی ہے 'امروز' نے اس کتاب کے سرورق کا ڈیزائن حال ہی مکمل کیا ہے دراصل مجھے مظہر اسلام کی نظم "دعا" بہت ہی پسند آئی۔ جس میں انہوں نے کہا "اے اللہ! ادیبوں اور شاعروں کو نئی سچائیاں تحریر کرنے کی توفیق عطا کر" میں اکثر اپنی تقاریر میں سعیدہ گزدر کے حوالے دیا کرتی ہوں 'اس کی نظم "دو عورتوں کی گواہی ضروری ہے" انتہائی متاثر کن ہے میں نے گزدر کو لکھا کہ انہوں نے میری نظم "دوسری کی دھرتی" کو بھی اسی حساب میں کیوں نہیں رکھا؟

س.. پنجابی ادیب افضل احسن رندھاوا کے بارے میں آپ کی کیا رائے ہے؟

ج... مجھے ان کی شاعری سے زیادہ افسانے پسند ہیں۔

س... آپ کے خیال میں کوئی نئے پنجابی ادیب ہیں جو پر اثر ہوں؟

ج..... نئے ادیبوں میں کئی بہت اچھا لکھنے والے ہیں۔ جیسے پریم گور کھی، جو نچلے طبقے سے ابھرے ہیں اور نچلے طبقے کی جدوجہد کا حصہ رہے۔ اس لئے اس جدوجہد کا شعوری ادراک رکھتے ہیں ایک اور نام پال قزاق بھی ہے۔ انہیں چھکڑے والے کی لڑکی سے محبت ہوگئی اور وہ تین برس تک پڑوس میں پڑے رہے ان لوگوں کی اطوار و زندگی کے بارے میں اس کی تحریریں بہت عمدہ ہیں۔ وسیم بیھلر ایک اور اچھے شاعر ہیں اس کے علاوہ اور بھی کئی اچھے شاعر و ادیب ہیں میں نے صرف چند کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ مثال کے طور پر شیو کمار بہت ہی عمدہ شاعر تھا۔ وہ بہت حساس تھا۔ چند خواتین شعراء نے نہایت عمدہ شاعری کی ہے اور منجیت تیوانہ ان میں سے ایک ہیں۔

س.... آپ راجیہ سبھا کی ممبر ہیں۔ آپ کو سیاست کا شوق کب ہوا؟

ج.... مجھے سیاست پسند نہیں ہے۔ میں نے کبھی کوئی انتخاب نہیں لڑا۔ میں راجیہ سبھا کی نامزد رکن ہوں۔ جس طرح حسین کو بحیثیت مصور اور روی شنکر کو بطور موسیقار، مجھے ادیب کی حیثیت سے وہاں رکھا گیا ہے میرا سیاست سے کچھ لینا دینا نہیں ہے۔

س.. آپ راجیہ سبھا میں کیا کرتی ہیں؟

ج.. میں سماجی مسائل اٹھاتی ہوں۔ جیسا کہ میں نے آپ کو پہلے بتایا تھا میں نے ادیبوں کی رائلٹی کا سوال اٹھایا تھا۔ میں نے خواتین کو بعض مندروں میں داخل نہ ہونے سے متعلق موضوع بھی اٹھایا تھا۔ یہ واقعہ کچھ اس طرح ہے کہ ڈسٹرکٹ آسام کے بارپیٹ میں ایک مندر ہے جہاں خواتین جا کر کام کرنا چاہتی تھیں لیکن ان کا داخلہ ممنوع کر دیا گیا اس لئے انہوں نے فیصلہ کیا وہ پارکرام میں اس وقت تک بیٹھی رہیں گی جب تک انہیں داخلے کا پروانہ نہیں مل جاتا۔ اب صورت حال یوں ہے ان کی بیٹیاں 'پوتیاں' پڑپوتیاں یعنی نسلیں مندر کے صحن میں انتظار میں بیٹھتی ہیں اور اب یہ ایک نفسیاتی غلامی کی صورت اختیار کر گئی ہے مجھے یہ سب دیکھ کر دکھ ہوا۔ آسام جانے کے بعد معلوم ہوا کہ ۳۰ مندر صرف آسام سٹیٹ میں ایسے ہیں جہاں یہ صورت حال موجود ہے، جن مندروں کا میں نے دورہ کیا وہاں مقدس کتاب گیتا سے عبادت کی جاتی ہے۔ میں نے پنڈت کو بتایا "تم نے کرشن کو تو مندر میں آنے کی اجازت دے رکھی ہے لیکن رادھا ابھی تک باہر بیٹھی ہے" میں نے پنڈتوں سے سوال کیا۔ "کیا لارڈ کرشن کسی انسانی مداخلت کی وجہ سے اپنی روحانیت سے محروم ہوجائے گا؟ میں اپنی تقاریر میں عورتوں کے موضوعات پر سعیدہ گزدر اور مظہر اسلام کی نظموں سے ان گنت حوالے دیتی ہوں۔

س.... بحیثیت ادیب آپ کی سیاست کے بارے میں کیا رائے ہے؟

ج... ادیب ہونے کے ناطے میں نہ صرف سیاست بلکہ زندگی کے سب پہلوؤں سے مایوس ہوں 'ہماری قدریں ختم ہوچکی ہیں۔ اس تمام صورت حال کی ذمہ دار ادبی متاثر ایوارڈز کی قطاریں ہیں اور ان تمام ایوارڈز اور سودے بازی کو منظم کرنے کا صرف یہی مقصد کہ اصلی لوگوں کو ادبی منظر سے دور رکھا جائے۔ کرپشن زندگی کے تمام شعبوں میں در آئی ہے۔ مذہب 'سماجی تعلقات' ذاتی تعلقات ہر شے تجارت ہوگئی ہے میری رائے میں ادب اور آرٹ کی روح کو بھی ناقابل تلافی نقصان پہنچا ہے۔ پاکستان میں صورت حال کچھ زیادہ مختلف نہیں ہے۔

س... آپ نے انحطاط پذیری کی بابت گفتگو کی ہے لیکن کیا ایسی صورت حال میں ادیبوں کا فرض نہیں ہے کہ اس تنزلی کو روکنے کی جدوجہد کریں۔

ج.... ادیبوں کا کردار بہت اہم ہونا چاہئے تھا لیکن بدقسمتی سے ان کا کردار محدود ہو گیا ہے۔ اس مجموعی زوال پذیری پر افسردہ ہوں۔

س... کیا آپ کو یورپی اور دوسرے غیر ملکی ادب سے تحریک ملی؟

ج.. جی ہاں جتنے ممالک کے میں نے دورے کئے وہاں کے ادب پاروں کے تراجم بھی کئے۔

س.... کیا آپ ذاتی طور پر کسی غیر ملکی ادیب سے متاثر ہوئیں؟

ج... جیسا کہ آپ جانتے ہیں ذاتی تعلقات کی نشوونما پانے کے لئے وقت اور کار درکار ہوتا ہے۔ میں نے ہر جگہ اچھے ادیب پائے۔ چند نظموں کا رومانیہ سے ترجمہ کیا۔ یہ بہت اچھی معیاری عمدہ نظمیں تھیں میں نے اکثر اپنی تقاریر میں ان کے حوالے دیئے ہیں۔

س..... آپ اپنی ابتدائی تخلیقات کا موازنہ جدید تصانیف کے ساتھ کیسے کرتی ہیں؟

ج..... میری رائے کے مطابق میں اب زیادہ سنجیدہ ہوگئی ہوں۔ اب میری تحریر میں زیادہ وضاحت ہے۔ اب مجھے اپنے جنر پر زیادہ عبور حاصل ہوگیا ہے وقت کے ساتھ سب کچھ آجاتا ہے۔

س... کیا آپ ایسا محسوس نہیں کرتیں کہ پنجابی کے دانشور اپنے فرائض کو نبھانے میں ناکام ہوگئے ہیں۔

ج... نہیں آپ ایسا نہیں کہہ سکتے کہ وہ ناکام ہوگئے ہیں ایک سمت وہ افراد ہیں جو احساسات اور الفاظ سے اظہار کرتے ہیں اور دوسری جانب وہ افراد ہیں جو ہتھیار استعمال کرتے ہیں کوئی کیا کرسکتا ہے؟ وہ آپ کو فوراً جان سے ماردیں گے۔

س..... خون خرابے اور مار دھاڑ کی دھمکیوں کے حوالے سے حالیہ دنوں میں ایک آرٹسٹ صفدر ہاشمی کو دن دہاڑے قتل کر دیا گیا۔ اس بارے میں آپ کے کیا احساسات ہیں۔

ج.... جی ہاں۔ یہ سب کچھ بڑا کربناک اور افسوسناک تھا لیکن ایسے بہت سے افراد اسی طرح قتل کر دیئے جاتے ہیں۔ اس سانحہ کے بارے میں بڑا احتجاج کیا گیا کیونکہ وہ سی۔ پی آئی (ایم) کا ممبر تھا لیکن جو افراد کسی پارٹی سے تعلق نہیں رکھتے تو ایسا معاملہ دبا دیا جاتا ہے۔ انسانی قتل تو انسانی قتل ہی ہوتا ہے۔

س.... آپ کا پاکستانی ادیبوں کے لئے کیا پیغام ہے؟

ج.... میرے نزدیک پاکستانی اور ہندوستانی ادیب و شاعر برابر ہیں میں انہیں عزت و احترام کی نگاہ سے دیکھتی ہوں جو افراد جیسا کہتے ہیں ویسا ہی کرتے ہیں تو مجھے خوشی ہوتی ہے۔ میرا خیال ہے کہ ہم منافق ہوتے جارہے ہیں۔

س..... ہم اکثر بیشتر آپ کے دورہ پاکستان کے منصوبوں کے بارے میں سنتے ہیں جس جگہ آپ نے اپنا بچپن گزارا اس کی یاد نہیں آتی؟

ج.... جی ہاں! آتی ہے۔ ایک مرتبہ میں نے دورہ پاکستان کا منصوبہ بنایا' لیکن مجھے فرانس میں حادثہ پیش آگیا اور میں فریکچر کی وجہ سے چھ ماہ کے لئے بستر سے لگ گئی اس لئے میں پاکستان نہیں جاسکی۔

س..... موجودہ صورت حال میں آپ کی رائے میں ادیبوں کے کیا فرائض ہونا چاہئیں؟

ج.... ادیبوں کا ان تین ہتھیاروں سے بالاتر ہونا لازمی ہے۔ شہرت' دولت اور اقتدار۔ جب تک انسان ان تینوں ہتھیاروں کا موثر استعمال نہیں سیکھ جاتا تب تک وہ محسوس کرے گا کہ یہ تینوں اسے محکوم بنائے ہوئے ہیں۔

س... پاکستانی پنجاب اسمبلی میں پنجابی زبان نہیں بولی جاتی جبکہ بھارت میں سٹیٹ زبان کی سرپرستی کرتی ہے پنجاب میں کتنے اخبار پنجابی زبان میں شائع ہوتے ہیں؟

ج..... دراصل حکومتی سرپرستی کا کوئی وجود نہیں ہے' پنجابی روزنامے بہت ہیں لیکن ٹریبیون اور 'اجیت' اچھے ہیں۔ ریاست کسی چھوٹے اخبار کو امداد یا اشتہار نہیں دیتی۔ یہ ان کی اپنی سرپرستی سے شائع ہوتے ہیں۔

میں منٹو سے کبھی نہیں ملی

س... کہا جاتا ہے کہ بہت سے ہندی الفاظ پنجابی زبان میں شامل ہو رہے ہیں آپ کی رائے میں پنجابی زبان کا بھارت میں کیا مستقبل ہے؟

ج.... میری رائے میں اگرچہ ہندی کے الفاظ ہماری زبان میں در آتے ہیں لیکن ایک خاص سطح کے ہم ادیب افراد اپنے ورثے کی طرف پلٹ آئیں گے اور ہمارے صوفی شعراء نے جو الفاظ استعمال کئے ہیں اس کی طرف مراجعت کریں گے میں خود اپنی زبان کے الفاظ استعمال کرتی ہوں۔ جب ہماری اپنی زبان میں خوبصورت الفاظ موجود ہیں تو ہمیں دوسری زبان کے الفاظ مستعار لینے کی کیا ضرورت ہے میں اپنی تحریروں میں بہت زیادہ محتاط ہوں میں اپنی پنجابی تحریروں میں ہندی کے الفاظ قطعی استعمال نہیں کرتی۔ چونکہ میں پورے ہندوستان کو مخاطب کرتی ہوں اس لئے میری تقاریر انگریزی میں ہوتی ہیں۔ میری تقاریر کے موضوعات قومی یکجہتی اور انسانی تعلقات ہوتے ہیں۔

س..... آج کل آپ کیا لکھ رہی ہیں؟

ج..... میں اپنے خوابوں پر نئی کتاب لکھ رہی ہوں۔ اس کتاب کا ٹائٹل ہے "لال دھاگے کا رشتہ" یہ کتاب پنجابی اور انگلش میں ہوگی۔

س..... ہر انسان اور خاص طور پر ادیب کا ایک آئیڈیل ہوتا ہے اور اس کی خواہش ہوتی ہے کہ زندگی میں وہ کچھ حاصل کرے کیا آپ اپنی تخلیقات سے مطمئن ہیں؟

ج.... میں اپنے کام سے مطمئن ہوں لیکن اس کے ساتھ یہ بھی محسوس کرتی ہوں کہ فنکاری کا کوئی انت نہیں ہے۔ میرے تخیل کے مطابق انسان بہت خوبصورت تخلیق تھا لیکن حقیقتاً میں نے اسے اچھا نہیں پایا۔ ممالک کی تقسیم 'تعلقات کی کشیدگیوں اور اقتدار کی خرابی نے مجھے مایوس کر دیا ہے۔ یہ سب چیزیں مجھے مغموم کر دیتی ہیں۔

پوری عورت کا تصوّر یہ ہے کہ وہ معاشی، جذباتی اور ثقافتی لحاظ سے خود کفیل ہو

منٹو نے کہا تھا وہ زندگی میں کبھی نہیں روئے لیکن میری نظم پڑھنے کے بعد : کھول دو اور ٹوبہ ٹیک سنگھ مجھے بے حد پسند ہیں

ایک تھی سارا ..... امرتا کی نئی کتاب

اچھے خاصے لوگ، معقول کام چھوڑ کر، شاعری کرنے پر اتر آئے ہیں؟

شاعری غالب جیسے بڑے شاعر کے لئے بھی ذریعہ عزت نہیں تھی [illegible] سید یوسف بخاری کے مجموعہ کلام 'دامن یوسف' پر تبصرہ

تیسری دنیا کے بعض ممالک میں اتنی آسانی سے تو مارشل لاء بھی نہیں لگتا جتنی آسانی سے ہمارے ملک میں ہر تیسرا آدمی صاحب دیوان بن جاتا ہے اور اب نوبت یہاں تک پہنچی ہے کہ اچھے خاصے معقول لوگ بھی شاعری کرنے اور دیوان چھپوانے کی فکر میں ہیں۔ شاعری کوئی زیادہ بری چیز نہیں لیکن جس کا کام اسی کو ساجھے والا اصول پیش نظر رہنا چاہئے۔ اگر قتیل شفائی اور محسن بھوپالی جیسے لوگ شعر کہتے ہیں تو اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ یہ حضرات فطری شاعر ہیں یعنی شعر کہنے کے علاوہ کچھ اور نہیں کر سکتے۔ لیکن جو لوگ اچھے خاصے معقول کام کر سکتے ہیں یا کر رہے ہیں انہیں یہ زیب نہیں دیتا کہ وہ معقول کاموں کو چھوڑ کر شاعری کریں جب شاعری غالب جیسے بڑے شاعر کے لئے ذریعہ عزت نہیں تھی تو کسی اور کے لئے کیسے ہو سکتی ہے۔

یہ تمہید ہم نے اس لئے لکھی ہے کہ اس وقت سید یوسف بخاری دہلوی کا مجموعہ کلام "دامن یوسف" ہمارے سامنے ہے۔ اس دامن کو کھینچنے سے پہلے مناسب ہوگا کہ بخاری صاحب کا تعارف کرا دیا جائے۔ بخاری صاحب گزشتہ نصف صدی سے ادبی دنیا میں سرگرم عمل ہیں۔ ان کی پہلی کتاب آج سے پورے پچاس برس پہلے دہلی سے شائع ہوئی تھی۔ اس کے بعد انہوں نے متعدد کتابیں تصنیف کیں جن میں "یہ دلی ہے" کو بے حد مقبولیت حاصل ہوئی۔ دلی کی قدیم تہذیب اور معاشرت کے بارے میں یہ بے مثال کتاب ہے۔ بخاری صاحب نے جامع مسجد دہلی کی تاریخ بھی لکھی ہے اور غالب والے نواب علاؤالدین علائی کی سوانح عمری بھی۔ یہ دونوں کتابیں ابھی شائع نہیں ہوئیں۔ شائع ہوں گی تو معلوم ہوگا کہ موصوف اونچے درجے کے محقق بھی ہیں۔

جامع مسجد دہلی کی امامت بخاری صاحب کے خاندان میں چلی آتی ہے موجودہ امام صاحب ان کے بہت قریبی عزیز ہیں کہا جاتا ہے کہ اس خاندان میں جامع مسجد کے امام تو بہت ہوئے ہیں لیکن جامع مسجد کی سیڑھیوں کی امامت ایک ہی شخص کے حصے میں آئی ہے اور وہ ہیں جناب یوسف بخاری' جامع مسجد کی سیڑھیوں پر جو زبان بولی جاتی تھی وہ اب صرف یوسف بخاری بولتے ہیں جب وہ گفتگو کرتے ہیں تو "وہ کہیں اور سنا کرے کوئی" والی صورت حال پیدا ہو جاتی ہے۔ یہی حال ان کے لکھنے کا ہے وہ صحیح معنوں میں صاحب طرز ادیب ہیں جن کو اس اجمال کی تفصیل دیکھنی ہو وہ علی گڑھ والے پروفیسر اختر انصاری کی کتاب "دلی کا روڑا" .... دیکھ لیں۔ پروفیسر صاحب نے یہ کتاب یوسف بخاری کی شخصیت اور فن کے بارے میں لکھی ہے۔ اس میں انہوں نے بخاری صاحب کے اسلوب بیان کی خصوصیات پر تفصیل سے روشنی ڈالی ہے۔

بابائے اردو مولوی عبدالحق نے یوسف بخاری کو "دلی کا روڑا" کہا تھا ان سے پہلے رجب علی بیگ سرور نے میر امن کو یہ لقب عطا کیا تھا اور کہا تھا دلی کے روڑے ہیں۔ محاورے کے ہاتھ پاؤں توڑے ہیں بخاری صاحب نے محاورے کے ہاتھ پاؤں توڑے ہیں۔ بخاری صاحب نے محاورے کے ہاتھ پاؤں نہیں توڑے۔ کہ یہ کام نثری نظم والے بہتر طور پر انجام دے رہے ہیں۔ البتہ انہوں نے پچاس برس تک نثر لکھنے کے بعد اچانک شاعری شروع کر کے شاعری کے ہاتھ پاؤں باندھنے کی خاصی کوشش کی ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ دامن یوسف میں شاعری اس طرح نظر آتی ہے جیسے صاف ستھرے دامن پر کوئی داغ دھبہ لگ گیا ہو۔

بخاری صاحب نے کتاب کے دیباچے میں اعتراف کیا ہے کہ "شاعری میرا میدان نہیں میری اصل جولاں نثر ہے" اس اعتراف کے باوجود دیوان مرتب کرنا اور چھپوانا اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ پاکستان میں خبروں کی اشاعت پر پابندی ہو تو ہو کتابوں کی اشاعت پر کسی قسم کی کوئی پابندی نہیں ہے۔

بخاری صاحب نے ستر برس کی عمر میں اٹھارہ برس کی عمر والی غزلیں لکھی ہیں ان کے کچھ شعر آپ بھی سنئیے۔

دیکھنا ان کا نگاہ ناز سے
میرے دل پر اک قیامت ڈھا گیا
خواب میں وہ دل ربا کیوں کر ملا
اسے تصور وہ بھی کچھ شرما گیا
رات کو خواب میں وہ بے خوابی
واہمہ تھا، خیال تھا، کیا تھا!

نظموں کا حال بھی کچھ ایسا ہی ہے۔ یعنی اس دیوان میں بعض ایسے موضوعات پر بھی نظمیں ملتی ہیں کہ بخاری صاحب سے پہلے شاید ہی کسی نے ان موضوعات پر طبع آزمائی کی ہو۔ مثلاً اپنا مکان کرائے پر دیا تو اس پر نظم لکھ ڈالی' کسی نے شیروانی کا تحفہ دیا تو اس کا منظوم شکریہ ادا کر ڈالا۔ ملازمت سے سبکدوش ہوئے تو اس کا دستاویزی ثبوت نظم کی صورت میں فراہم کر دیا کوئی عزیز سفر پر روانہ ہوا تو زاد راہ کے طور پر ایک الوداعی نظم اس کے حوالے کر دی کچھ نظمیں عید بقر عید کے بارے میں ہیں۔ کچھ تاریخی عمارات پر لکھی ہیں مثلاً جامع مسجد اور قطب مینار وغیرہ پر۔ قطب مینار والی نظم ہمیں بہت اچھی لگی کیونکہ اس میں ثابت کیا گیا ہے کہ یہ مینار ہمالیہ کی چوٹی سے بھی اونچا ہے ہم نے ہمالیہ کی چوٹی دیکھی ہے نہ قطب مینار۔ بخاری صاحب نے ان دونوں کو بچشم خود دیکھ کر یہ نظم لکھی ہوگی اس لئے انہوں نے جو کچھ کہا ہے اس پر یقین نہ کرنے کی کوئی وجہ نظر نہیں آتی۔ اس سے بخاری صاحب کے مشاہدے کی گہرائی اور گیرائی کا اندازہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

جس طرح مولانا حالی نے اپنے دیوان کے ساتھ مقدمہ لکھا تھا اور وہ دیوان سے زیادہ مشہور ہوا تھا اسی طرح بخاری صاحب نے بھی ایک طویل مقدمہ سپرد قلم کیا ہے۔ توقع ہے کہ یہ بھی دیوان سے زیادہ مشہور ہوگا۔ اس ادب کے بعض بنیادی مسائل پر فکر انگیز گفتگو کی گئی ہے مثلاً ایک مسئلہ یہ ہے۔ "اب جدید رجحانات کے زیر اثر دواوین اور مجموعہ ہائے کلام کے ناموں کی روش بدل چکی ہے۔ پہلے شعراء کے مجموعوں کے نام ایک تاسبہ لفظی ہوا کرتے تھے۔ لیکن اب پانچ پانچ الفاظ تک نوبت آگئی ہے۔ ان کی معنوی نوعیت بھی ایسی ہے کہ سرورق پر صرف نام پڑھ کر گمان ہوتا ہے کہ شاید افسانوں کا مجموعہ یا کوئی ناول وغیرہ ہے۔ مثلاً پیاس کا صحرا رازوں سے بھرا بستہ 'مرے دل مرے مسافر' خالی ہاتھوں میں ارض و سما.....

بخاری صاحب نے جس مسئلے کی طرف توجہ دلائی ہے وہ واقعی بہت اہم ہے۔ جدید شاعروں کو شاعری کرتے وقت نہ سہی' اپنے مجموعوں کے نام رکھتے وقت تو شاعرانہ ذوق کا ثبوت دینا چاہئے اور ایسے ناموں سے اجتناب کرنا چاہئے جو برعکس نہند نام زنگی کافور کے زمرے میں آتے ہوں۔ مثلاً "پیاس کا صحرا" جغرافیے کی کتاب معلوم ہوتی ہے۔ جس میں پیاس نامی صحرا کے بارے میں معلومات ہوں "رازوں سے بھرا بستہ" جاسوسی ناول نظر آتا ہے مرے دل مرے مسافر امراض قلب کے بارے میں ڈاکٹر اسلم سید کی تصنیف معلوم ہوتی ہے۔ "خالی ہاتھوں میں ارض و سما" شعبدے بازی سے متعلق کتاب کا نام ہو سکتا ہے۔

بخاری صاحب نے دوسرا اہم مسئلہ یہ اٹھایا ہے کہ آج جو شاعری ہو رہی ہے وہ ہماری ادبی روایات کے منافی ہے انہوں نے جدید شاعری کے کچھ نمونے پیش کئے ہیں جن میں سے بعض یہ ہیں۔

چاندنی میں ڈھل رہا تھا بیڈ روم
نرم گدوں پہ اکیلا چاند تھا
گھر میں سب کے قفل پڑے تھے
باہر نیل گگنے بندھی تھی
چھپکلی نے اپنے منہ میں داب رکھا ہے مجھے
اور میں کیڑے مکوڑوں کی طرح لاچار ہوں
پیٹ کر جاتی ہے چڑیا فرق پر
عظمت آدم کا آئینہ ہوں میں

یوسف بخاری نصف صدی سے دنیائے ادب میں سرگرم ہیں

کاش بخاری صاحب اس قسم کے جدید شعروں کا انتخاب ذرا وسیع پیمانے پر کرتے۔ شاید کتاب کی ضخامت بڑھ جانے کے خیال سے انہوں نے ہاتھ روک لیا وہ اپنے شعر کم کر سکتے تھے اور اسی نسبت سے انتخاب کے شعر بڑھا سکتے تھے۔ اس طرح کتاب کی ضخامت تو نہ بڑھتی پڑھنے والوں کی دلچسپی کا سامان بڑھ جاتا۔

بخاری صاحب نے دیباچے میں اپنے بارے میں کم اور دوسروں کے بارے میں زیادہ باتیں کی ہیں نام لے لے کر بعض ادیبوں کو ہدف ملامت بنایا ہے اور دلی کی ٹکسالی اور کہیں کرخنداری زبان میں حق گوئی و بے باکی کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے ہمیں افسوس ہے کہ اپنے کالم کی محدود گنجائش کے پیش نظر ہم تفصیل میں نہیں جاسکتے تاہم بخاری صاحب کی حق گوئی و بے باکی کی ایک مثال پیش کئے بغیر نہیں رہا جاسکتا اپنے بارے میں انہوں نے یہ انکشاف کیا ہے کہ جب وہ دلی میں تھے تو مشاعروں میں ترنم سے غزلیں سنایا کرتے تھے اور یہ غزلیں وہ ارشاد احمد ارشاد نامی ایک شاعر سے لکھوایا کرتے تھے۔

بخاری صاحب نے "فرمودہ ارشاد" غزلوں کے کچھ اشعار بھی درج کئے ہیں۔ یہ شعر اچھے خاصے ہیں حیرت ہے کہ اتنے اچھے شعر کہنے والے کو آج کوئی نہیں جانتا اور سید یوسف بخاری اس کالم کی اشاعت کے بعد صاحب دیوان شاعر کی حیثیت سے مشہور ہوچکے ہوں گے اگر بخاری صاحب نے زیر نظر مجموعے میں شامل غزلیں بھی ارشاد احمد ارشاد سے لکھوائی ہوتیں تو یہ مجموعہ سال رواں کا آدم جی انعام حاصل کر لیتا۔

وہ کوئی درباری یا قصیدہ خواں نہ تھا! بلکہ ایک درویش منش شاعر تھا

پاکستان کے [illegible] شاعر ساغر صدیقی کے فن پر محمد جان جانی کی تحریر

دیدہ وران لاہور اور کالجوں کے شہر لاہور کی سڑکوں پر بیس سال تک پھٹے پرانے کپڑوں گرد آلود زلفوں پریشان حال اور ننگے پاؤں گھومنے والا اپنے وقت کا ایک بڑا شاعر اور درویش منش انسان ساغر صدیقی اب میانی صاحب کے قبرستان میں ابدی نیند سو رہا ہے۔ اپنی زندگی میں اپنے دوستوں سے کہا کرتا تھا۔

یاد رکھنا ہماری تربت کو
قرض ہے تم پہ چار پھولوں کا

مگر افسوس کہ ساغر کے کلام کے مداح پبلشر، ادیب، صحافی، دانشور اور شاعر اس کی قبر پر دو پھول چڑھانے کی زحمت نہیں کرتے اس کی برسی خاموشی سے گزر جاتی ہے۔ کسی ادبی محفل کا انعقاد نہیں ہوتا۔ کوئی مشاعرہ منعقد نہیں کیا جاتا۔ کسی تنظیم کی کوئی بھی ادبی سرگرمی دیکھنے میں نہیں آتی۔ یہ معاشرے کی اور ادبی بے حسی کی انتہا ہے۔ جس کی وجہ شاید یہ ہے کہ ساغر کوئی درباری یا قصیدہ خوان شاعر نہ تھا۔ بلکہ یہ عظیم اور درویش شاعر مشرقی پنجاب کے شہر انبالہ میں پیدا ہوا اور اس نے قلمی نام ناصر حجازی کے ساتھ شاعری کا آغاز کیا اور مختصر عرصے میں اتنی شہرت حاصل کر لی کہ ہر مشاعرہ کی ضرورت بن گیا۔

تقسیم ہند کے بعد ساغر ہجرت کر کے پاکستان آیا تو اس نے داتا کی نگری لاہور کو اپنا مسکن بنایا ان دنوں ساغر پانچ روپے میں اپنی غزل بیچنے والا یا اپنے دوستوں سے چار آنے مانگنے والا شاعر نہ تھا بلکہ ایک خوش پوش نوجوان تھا۔ نہایت نفیس لباس زیب تن کرنا پسند کرتا اور اس وقت کے لحاظ سے کیپسٹن جیسے معیاری سگریٹ پیتا تھا۔

جب فیلڈ مارشل محمد ایوب خان مرحوم کی زرعی اصلاحات کے گن گائے جارہے تھے' اور بیشتر شاعر اور ادیب بھی اس کے قصیدے پڑھ رہے تھے۔ ان ہی دنوں لاہور اوپن ایئر تھیٹر میں اس سلسلے میں ایک مشاعرہ کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ اور تمام شاعروں نے سرکاری حکم کی بجا آوری کرتے ہوئے ان اصلاحات کو سراہا۔ اور جب ساغر صدیقی کو سٹیج پر بلایا گیا تو درویش شاعر نے اپنا ضمیر کا بوجھ اس طرح اتار پھینکا۔

ساغر صدیقی مرحوم اپنے دوست ریاض تسنیم مرحوم کے ساتھ

ساغر نے کہا تھا "جانے کس جرم کی پائی ہے سزا یاد نہیں"

مجھے وطن کے فقیروں کو ڈھانپنے کے لئے
قبائے خواجہ اقلیم کی ضرورت ہے

اور اپنی چادر اتار کر میر مشاعرہ پر ڈال دی۔ ساغر کی جرأت' بے باکی اور کردار اور ایک عظیم شاعر ہونے کی اس سے بڑی دلیل اور کیا ہو سکتی ہے۔ جب ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کو وزارت خارجہ سے علیحدہ کر دیا گیا اور انہوں نے پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کی بنیاد رکھی تو ساغر جیسے درویش نے بھی پارٹی کی بنیادی رکنیت کے فارم پر دستخط ثبت کر کے پارٹی کی رکنیت اختیار کر لی۔

ساغر کی ذوالفقار علی بھٹو اور پارٹی سے عقیدت کا اندازہ اس شعر سے بخوبی لگایا جاسکتا ہے۔

تو کہ ہے شاہین نظر تیری بصیرت معتبر
پر یقین تیرا چلن تیری سیاست معتبر
تو ہے ملک و قوم کا بیچارگی میں غمگسار
کامیاب و کام گار و کامران ثابت رہے

لیکن نہایت افسوس سے کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ ملک اور قوم کے اس ہونہار فرزند کے ساتھ معاشرے اور اس کے دوست احباب نے انصاف نہیں کیا۔ اور جس کو بھی موقعہ ملا اس نے ساغر کا استحصال کر کے اپنا مفاد حاصل کیا۔ اگر اس کے حالات پر ایک نظر ڈالی جائے تو یہ عیاں ہو جاتا ہے کہ اس عظیم شاعر نے ایک حد تک حالات کا مقابلہ کرنے کی بھرپور کوشش کی۔ لیکن وہ حالات اور واقعات سے سمجھوتہ نہ کر سکا۔ اس کے جذبات ملاحظہ ہوں۔

دستور یہاں بھی اندھے ہیں
فرمان یہاں بھی اندھے ہیں
اے دوست خدا کا نام نہ لے
ایمان یہاں بھی اندھے ہیں
ذردار توقع رکھتا ہے
نادار کی گاڑھی محنت پر
مزدور یہاں بھی دیوانے
ذیشان یہاں بھی اندھے ہیں

لوگوں کی مسلسل طعنہ زنی اور دوستوں کی بے رخی کی طرف اشارہ کرتے ہوئے ساغر نے کہا تھا۔

زندگی جبر مسلسل کی طرح کاٹی ہے
جانے کس جرم کی پائی ہے سزا یاد نہیں
آؤ اک سجدہ کر لیں عالم مدہوشی میں
لوگ کہتے ہیں ساغر کو خدا یاد نہیں

جب ملک میں سیاسی حالات نے رخ تبدیل کیا۔ عوام نے تنگ آکر حکومت وقت کے خلاف احتجاج شروع کیا اور پورے ملک میں حکومت پر سیاسی لیڈروں کی طرف سے شدید تنقید شروع ہوگئی تو ان حالات میں ساغر جیسے درویش شاعر کے خیالات بھی قابل توجہ تھے۔

تہذیب جتوں کار پہ تنقید کا حق ہے
گرتی ہوئی دیوار پہ تنقید کا حق ہے
ہاں میں نے لہو اپنا گلستاں کو دیا ہے
مجھ کو گل و گلزار پہ تنقید کا حق ہے
مجروح جو کر دے دل انساں کی حقیقت
اس شوخی گفتار پہ تنقید کا حق ہے

جب قوم سراپا احتجاج تھی۔ جلاؤ اور گھیراؤ جیسے نعرے لگ رہے تھے آئے دن کی ہڑتالوں اور مسلسل کرفیو کے نفاذ نے قومی زندگی کو مفلوج کر دیا تھا اور مایوسی کے سائے منڈلانے لگے تو ساغر صدیقی کی قلم کی نوک پہ یہ الفاظ تھے۔

تا حد نظر شعلے ہی شعلے ہیں چمن میں
پھولوں کے نگہبان سے کچھ بھول ہوئی ہے
جس عہد میں لٹ جائے فقیروں کی کمائی
اس عہد کے سلطان سے کچھ بھول ہوئی ہے

جب قومی معیشت تباہی اور بربادی کی طرف گامزن تھی تو ساغر کے خیالات یہ تھے۔

مجروح معیشت کے ہاتھوں انسان کا اب یہ عالم ہے
ہر زخم لگانے والے کو غمخوار سمجھنا پڑتا ہے
جب شاہی قباؤں کی خاطر کچھ جسم برہنہ ہو جائیں
اس وقت غلاموں کو ساغر مختار سمجھنا پڑتا ہے

ساغر کے احتجاج کا انداز ملاحظہ کریں۔

اب کے بہار آئی تو ہم بھی اپنا حصہ بانٹیں گے
پھولوں کو تقسیم کریں گے کانٹوں کو تقسیم کریں گے

ساغر وہ درویش شاعر تھا جس کو اگر مشاعرہ یا کوئی تازہ غزل لکھنے سے کچھ رقم مل جاتی تو چند روپے اپنے لئے رکھتا اور باقی دیگر فقیروں میں تقسیم کر دیتا تھا حالانکہ یہ وہ وقت تھا جب وہ خود بعض اوقات کوڑی کوڑی کا محتاج نظر آتا تھا۔ بلکہ کبھی کبھار وہ کوئی شناسا چہرہ دیکھ کر مانگنے سے بھی گریز نہیں کرتا تھا شاید ساغر نے اسی لئے کہا تھا۔

خیال ہے میکدے میں اک بار اور شعلوں کا راج ہوگا
شنید ہے انتقام لیں گے نشاط دوراں سے لوگ ساقی

ساغر کو اپنی زندگی میں کن کن مصائب کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ جب اس کو گرفتار کیا گیا تو کوئی ضمانت دینے والا نہ تھا۔ بڑے بڑے شاعر اور ادیب کنارہ کش ہو چکے تھے اور جب فالج کے حملہ کی وجہ سے ساغر اسپتال میں داخل کرایا گیا تو کوئی اس کا پرسان حال نہ تھا کوئی اس کے اخراجات پورے کرنے والا نہ تھا۔ سوائے چند لوگوں کے جو خود بھی مالی طور پر بدتر تھے۔ ساغر کی زندگی میں ایسے حالات بھی آئے کہ اس کو پاگل خانے کی سیر بھی کرنا پڑی۔

عدالت میں ساغر سے سوالات و جوابات کا دلچسپ سلسلہ

س۔ تمہارا نام کیا ہے؟

ج۔ کوئی نام نہیں 'کوئی ٹھکانا نہیں۔

س۔ تمہاری عمر کیا ہے

ج۔ مجھے کچھ پتہ نہیں میں ہمیشہ تھا اور ہمیشہ رہوں گا

س۔ تمہارے ماں باپ کون ہیں

ج۔ خدا کے سوا میرا کوئی نہیں اور یہ زمین میری ماں ہے۔

اور پھر لاہور کی سڑکوں اور گلیوں نے وہ مناظر بھی دیکھے جب اپنے وقت کا عظیم فنکار اور دانشور ایک سیاہ پھٹی پرانی چادر لپیٹے ہاتھ میں کشکول لئے ننگے پاؤں' ننگے سر' دربدر کی ٹھوکریں کھا رہا تھا۔ اپنے پیٹ کا دوزخ بھرنے اور جسم سے سانس کا رشتہ قائم رکھنے کے لئے دو دو اور چار چار آنے مانگنے پر مجبور ہوا۔ جو لوح جنوں' شیشۂ دل' غم بہار شب آگہی اور نعتوں کے مجموعہ سبز گنبد جیسی کتابوں کا مصنف تھا اس کے علاوہ مندرجہ ذیل مشہور فلموں کے گانے بھی ساغر نے لکھے تھے۔

سرفروش میں محفلیں لٹ گئیں جذبات نے دم توڑ دیا
دل کو طلا دلدار
دیکھے زمانہ میرا فسانہ
قلم دو آنسو۔ کوئی اپنی نشانی دے گیا دل لے گیا۔

ایک عرصہ موت و حیات کی کشمکش میں رہنے کے بعد ساغر ۱۹ جولائی ۱۹۷۴ء کو اپنے ہزاروں مداحوں کو داغ مفارقت دے کر ساتھ اور اس زندگی سے چھٹکارا پا گیا طالب چشتی نے اس کی موت پر کہا ہے

صابر صبر صدق داماالک درداں دا ونجارا
درد پرائے جھلی پاکے رویاں درداں مارا

ساغر اکثر کہا کرتا تھا کہ مجھے اپنی زندگی کی کوئی فکر نہیں یہ سب وقت گزارنے کی باتیں ہیں مرنا اور جینا ایک ہی تصویر کے دو رخ ہیں۔

ساغر صدیقی جیسے عظیم شاعر نے جن مشکل حالات کا سامنا کیا یہ سب معاشرہ کے پیدا کردہ تھے اور کہا گیا کہ معاشرہ ساغر کی اس زبوں حالی کی موت کا ذمہ دار ہے ساغر کی وفات کے بعد لاہور میں ایک ادبی عدالت منعقد کی گئی جس میں مسکین حجازی پروفیسر سجاد' باقر رضوی اور خاور مرزا بطور جج شامل تھے۔ آفتاب احمد نے استغاثہ پیش کیا گواہوں میں یونس ادیب' اعجاز رضوی محسن سوانی شامل تھے وکیل صفائی کے طور پر عارف ریحان اور ایم عزیز پیش ہوئے اس وقت کی پارلیمانی سیکرٹری بیگم ریحانہ سرور خصوصی مبصر کے طور پر شریک ہوئیں ادبی ججوں کے فیصلے میں قرار دیا گیا کہ درویش شاعر ساغر صدیقی طبعی موت نہیں مرا ہے بلکہ معاشرے کے ہاتھوں قتل ہوا اس کا ہمعصر ادیب' شاعر' دانشور اور پبلشر بھی اس الزام سے بری قرار نہیں دیئے جاسکتے۔

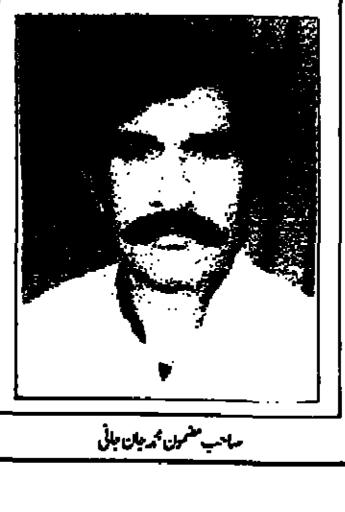
ساغر نے وہ وقت بھی دیکھا ہے جب اس کا کلام دوسرے لوگوں نے بڑے بڑے مشاعروں میں پڑھ کر سوسائٹی میں نام کمایا دوسری طرف کچھ پبلشروں نے ساغر صدیقی کا کلام شائع کر کے لاکھوں کمائے۔ ساغر مرحوم علامہ اقبال کے اس شعر کی تفسیر نظر آتے ہیں

میرا طریق امیری نہیں فقیری ہے
خودی نہ بیچ غریبی میں نام پیدا کر

ساغر جیسے لوگ مرتے نہیں بلکہ وہ اپنے فن اور شاعری کی روشنی میں ہمیشہ زندہ رہتے ہیں اور آفتاب فیض کی شمع روشن کرجاتے ہیں۔

اسے پاگل خانے کی سیر بھی کرنا پڑی
ساغر کا قتل، معاشرے نے کیا ہے

یہ فیصلہ لاہور میں ادیبوں کی ایک عدالت کا ہے



صاحب مضمون محمد جان جانی

ھکنا منہ الأصل

افغان عوام کا دل جیتنے کیلئے صدر نجیب اللہ نے اسلامی نظریات کا پرچار شروع کر دیا

لڑکیوں کی لازمی تعلیم اور زر مہر ختم کرنے کی روایت کی مخالفت ترک کر دی گئی، افغانستان کی صورتحال پر [illegible]

افغانستان سے سوویت افواج کی مکمل واپسی کے پانچ ماہ بعد کابل کی سوویت نواز حکومت اپنے عوام کو یہ باور کرانے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے کہ افغانستان ایک اسلامی ملک ہے نہ کہ کیمونسٹ۔ صدر نجیب اللہ اکثر و بیشتر اپنی تقاریر میں اپنے اسلامی عقائد کا اظہار کرتے رہتے ہیں وہ ملک میں نئی مساجد کی تعمیر اور افغان باشندوں کے لئے حج کی سہولتوں اور زیادہ مالی معاونت کا پرچار بھی کرتے ہیں۔ لیکن ملک میں ایک طویل عرصہ تک سوویت افواج کی موجودگی سے کیمونسٹ نوازی کا جو داغ لگ چکا ہے اسے دور کرنا بہت مشکل ہے' افغان مجاہدین نے نو سال تک سوویت افواج کے خلاف جہاد کیا ہے اور وہ سوویت سپاہیوں کی واپسی کے دوران کی چھوڑی ہوئی حکومت سے اب بھی برسرپیکار ہے۔

ایک ۲۸ سالہ استاد کا کہنا ہے کہ مجھے اس کی قطعی پرواہ نہیں کہ وہ (حکومت) کیا کہتے ہیں۔ وہ کیمونسٹ ہیں غیر ملکی سفارت کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ حکمران عوامی جمہوری پارٹی نے ماضی کی غلطیوں کی اصلاح کی ہے۔ انہوں نے پارٹی کی پالیسی میں عملی تبدیلیاں کی ہیں۔

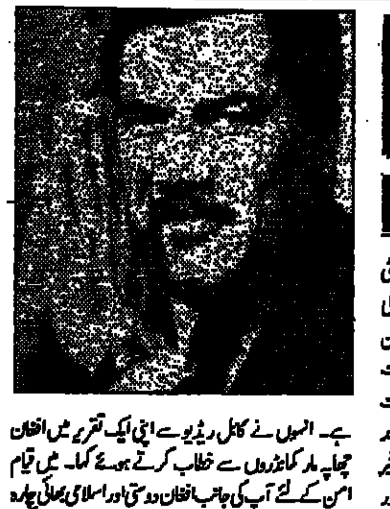
ایک ایسے وقت میں جب بائیں بازو کے ممتاز افغان باشندے اپنے پسماندہ ملک میں سماجی انقلاب اور ترقی کے لئے بے چین تھے ۱۹۷۸ء میں صدر محمد داؤد کی حکومت کا تختہ الٹ کر عوامی جمہوری پارٹی برسراقتدار آئی تھی جس کے بعد پارٹی کے اراکین نے سخت گیر پالیسیوں کا نفاذ شروع کر دیا۔ یہ تبدیلی دیہی علاقوں کے قدامت پسندوں کے لئے ناقابل برداشت تھی۔ ایسی ہی ایک پالیسی میں لڑکیوں کے لئے اسکول جانا لازمی قرار دیا گیا تھا۔ یہ ایسا اقدام تھا جو دیہی باشندوں کو ہرگز منظور نہیں تھا۔ اسی بنا پر ان لوگوں نے پارٹی کے کئی اراکین کو ہلاک کر دیا۔ حکومت کا یہ استدلال تھا کہ وہ افغانستان کو جدید بنانا چاہتی ہے۔ وہ زرعی اصلاحات کے پروگرام کو نافذ کرنا چاہتی ہے لیکن بڑے بڑے زمینداروں اور جاگیرداروں اور مذہبی رہنماؤں نے اس کی شدید مخالفت کی۔ حکومت نے کئی ملاؤں کو جیلوں میں بند کر دیا اور کئی ہلاک کر دیئے گئے۔ حکومت نے دیہی علاقوں میں تعلیم نسواں لازمی قرار دینے اور دلہن کی قیمت ادا کرنے کی روایت کو ختم کرنے کے جو انقلابی اقدامات اٹھائے تھے اب ان پر عمل نہ کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے ایک سرکاری افسر نے بتایا کہ کابل کے مضافات میں دلہنوں کی قیمت ادا کرنے کی روایت آج بھی برقرار ہے۔ اب جبکہ حکومت جدید اسلامی نظریات کے نفاذ کی کوشش کر رہی ہے' پاکستان میں مقیم مجاہدین کے بعض رہنماؤں نے انتہائی سخت مذہبی رویہ اپناتے ہوئے مسلم بنیاد پرستی کے اصولوں پر سختی سے عمل کرنے پر زور دیا ہے یہ امر افغانستان میں نسبتاً نیا اور حیرت انگیز ہے۔ بے شمار افغان عورتیں جو روایتی طور پر پردہ نہیں کرتیں اور کھیتوں میں مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ کام کرتی ہیں۔ اب ان کے لئے پاکستان کے پناہ گزین کیمپوں میں پردہ کرنا اور معاشرہ سے الگ تھلگ رہنا لازمی قرار دے دیا گیا ہے۔ ایک بیس سالہ جوان لڑکی جو ابھی پاکستان سے لوٹی ہے اور جو صوبہ قندوز کے شمالی علاقہ میں اپنے گھر جانے کی تیاری کر رہی تھی بتایا کہ کیمپوں میں زندگی بہت دشوار گزار ہے۔ لوٹنے والے پناہ گزینوں کے لئے قائم ایک سرکاری ادارہ کے ایک کمرہ کے فرش پر وہ دیگر خواتین کے ساتھ بیٹھی تھی۔ ان تینوں نے اپنے چہروں پر نقاب اور شالیں اوڑھ رکھی تھیں۔ کابل میں خواتین کی نصف کے قریب تعداد سر سے پیر تک روایتی چادر اوڑھے رہتی ہیں جبکہ کئی مغربی لباس پہنتی ہیں۔ ایک سفارت کار نے بتایا کہ اس ملک میں جنگ نے فریقین میں سخت اور انتہاپسند طبقہ پیدا کر دیا ہے۔ ایک طرف حکومت میں کیمونسٹ نواز عناصر اور دوسری طرف مسلم بنیاد پرست مجاہدین ہیں حکومت کے لئے اپنی حکمت عملی میں تبدیلی پیدا کرنے میں ایک دشواری یہ ہے کہ وہ اب تک ماسکو پر انحصار کئے ہوئے ہے۔ افغانستان کی زیادہ تر تجارت اپنے عظیم شمالی پڑوسی ملک سوویت یونین سے ہوتی ہے اور وہیں سے اسے امداد بھی حاصل ہوتی ہے حکمران پارٹی کی پالیسی اور کارکردگی میں ماسکو کی کیمونسٹ پارٹی کا عکس جھلکتا ہے۔ کابل کی سڑکوں پر افغان سپاہی سوویت ساختہ بکتر بند گاڑیوں میں گھومتے نظر آتے ہیں۔ شہر کے شاندار کانٹی نینٹل ہوٹل کا استقبالیہ سوویت نووستی خبر رساں ایجنسی کی خبریں اور ماسکو ٹیلی ویژن کی نشریات پیش کرتا ہے لیکن سرکاری حکام اس امر کو تسلیم نہیں کرتے کہ نجیب اللہ حکومت کیمونسٹ ہے اور مغربی ماہرین کا خیال ہے کہ افغان معیشت میں کوئی ایسی بات نہیں جو کیمونسٹ کہلائے۔ ۹۵ فیصد کاروبار نجی ہاتھوں میں ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں کیمونسٹ طرز کی خبر رساں ایجنسیوں اور سرکاری بیانات میں اللہ کی تعریف اور اسلامی روایات و اقدار کا زیادہ ذکر ہوتا ہے۔ نجیب اللہ نے جولائی کے اوائل میں ۴۷ اسلامی ممالک کو ایک پیغام ارسال کیا تھا جس میں ان سے پاکستان کو چھاپہ ماروں کی اعانت و امداد نہ کرنے پر زور دینے کی درخواست کی گئی تھی۔ سرکاری حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ امریکہ کی جانب سے افغان چھاپہ ماروں کی حمایت جاری رکھنے کی پالیسی کو سمجھنے سے قاصر ہیں جبکہ انہیں (امریکہ) دیگر ممالک بالخصوص ایران کے مسلم بنیاد پرستوں کے رویہ کا تلخ تجربہ بھی ہوا ہے۔ حکومت افغانستان نے جولائی میں فلسطینی رہنما یاسر عرفات کی جانب سے متحارب گروپ میں مذاکرات کے لئے ثالثی کی تجویز کا خیر مقدم کیا تھا اور پاکستان میں مجاہدین رہنماؤں کی جانب سے اس پیشکش کو مسترد کرنے پر بری طرح متاثر ہوا تھا۔

افغانستان کی سرکاری خبر رساں ایجنسی بختار نے حکومت کے ایک بیان کے حوالے سے بتایا کہ افغانستان کی عبوری حکومت کو یقین ہے کہ وہ لوگ جو خود کو سچا مسلمان اور انصاف کا علمبردار ہونے کا دعوی کرتے ہیں عالم اسلام کی ایک عظیم شخصیت کی آواز پر لبیک کہیں گے۔ خبروں میں افغان مجاہدین اور پاکستان کی حمایت کرنے پر امریکہ کو ہدف تنقید بنایا جاتا ہے جو کہ اسرائیلی صیہونیت کا سرپرست اعلیٰ بھی ہے۔

صدر نجیب اللہ نے اپنی حکومت کا تختہ الٹنے کے درپے افغان چھاپہ ماروں کا دل جیتنے کے لئے ایک تازہ مہم کا آغاز کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کابل ریڈیو سے اپنی ایک تقریر میں افغان چھاپہ مار کمانڈروں سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا۔ میں قیام امن کے لئے آپ کی جانب افغان دوستی اور اسلامی بھائی چارہ کا ہاتھ بڑھاتا ہوں" انہوں نے افغان باغی رہنماؤں کے کسی بھی پیرو کو جو افغانستان میں مقید ہے رہا کرنے کی پیشکش کی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ وقت آ گیا ہے تمام متحارب گروپ اپنے اختلافات بھلا کر مذاکرات کے لئے مل بیٹھیں۔ صدر نجیب اللہ نے افغان باغیوں کو جو گزشتہ دس سال سے ان کی سوویت نواز کیمونسٹ حکومت کے خاتمہ کے خلاف برسرپیکار ہیں' ٹیکس میں چھوٹ' زمین' اقتدار میں حصہ اور اسلحہ رکھنے کا حق دینے کی پیشکش بھی کی لیکن پاکستان میں مقیم افغان باغی رہنماؤں نے ان کی جنگ بندی کی تجویز کو یکسر مسترد کر دیا۔ جبکہ دوسری طرف افغان باغیوں کو اسلحہ سپلائی کرنے والے ملک امریکہ نے انہیں (افغان باغیوں) بڑے پیمانے پر نئے ہتھیار سپلائی کرنے کا وعدہ کیا۔ کابل میں روسی سفیر یولی ورنتسوف نے اخبار نویسوں کو بتایا کہ افغانستان کے ایک تہائی علاقوں میں اب جنگ بند ہو گئی ہے۔ امریکی اور دیگر مغربی ذرائع نے پیش گوئی کی تھی کہ فوجوں کے انخلا کے بعد افغان حکومت کا جلد خاتمہ ہو جائے گا لیکن جوں جوں وقت گزرتا جا رہا ہے صدر نجیب اللہ کی حکومت مضبوط تر ہوتی جا رہی ہے۔ سفارت کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ انہوں نے (نجیب اللہ) منوا لیا ہے کہ وہ ماضی کے کسی بھی افغان لیڈر کی طرح مضبوط ہیں اور ان کا ملک پر مکمل کنٹرول ہے لیکن مغربی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ صدر نجیب افغان باغی رہنماؤں سے معاملات طے کریں لیکن سکندر اعظم' چنگیز خان' انگریزوں اور حال ہی میں سوویت یونین کو چھوڑ کر افغانستان کے سابق حکمرانوں کو اس امر کا بخوبی تلخ تجربہ ہے کہ آزاد اور جنگجو ذہنیت کے افغانوں کو کس طرح قائل کیا جائے کہ انہیں کیا کرنا چاہئے۔ نجیب اللہ نے مقامی باغی کمانڈروں کا دل جیتنے کے لئے امریکہ' پاکستان اور پاکستان میں مقیم سات افغان چھاپہ مار گروپوں کے رہنماؤں سے مقابلہ آرائی کی ٹھان لی ہے۔

کابل میں فوجی ماہرین اور غیر ملکی سفارت کاروں کے درمیان امریکہ کی سپلائی کے بارے میں متضاد آراء پائی جاتی ہیں بعض کا کہنا ہے کہ حالیہ دنوں میں افغان مجاہدین کو بڑے پیمانے پر امریکی ہتھیاروں کی سپلائی جاری ہے جبکہ دوسروں کا کہنا ہے کہ اس میں کمی واقع ہو گئی ہے۔ افغانستان کی عبوری حکومت کے وزیر دفاع محمد نبی محمدی نے کہا کہ کئی ماہ کی خاموشی کے بعد امریکی حکومت نے ہتھیاروں کی تازہ کھیپ روانہ کرنے کا وعدہ کیا ہے۔ بعض لوگوں کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکہ نے پاکستان میں مقیم مجاہدین رہنماؤں کو نظرانداز کر کے افغانستان کے اندر لڑنے والے کمانڈروں سے براہ راست رابطہ قائم کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ انہی ذرائع نے بتایا کہ پاکستانی فوج اور مجاہدین رہنماؤں کے ذریعے جدید امریکی ہتھیاروں کے ضائع ہو جانے کے پیش نظر امریکہ نے افغانستان کے مقامی باغی رہنماؤں کو ہتھیار سپلائی کرنا شروع کر دیئے ہیں۔ ماضی میں ہی امریکی ہتھیار اتنی بدنظمی سے استعمال کئے گئے کہ امریکی اسٹنگر میزائل جو کہ افغان مجاہدین کے استعمال کے لئے روانہ کئے گئے تھے عراق ایران جنگ میں استعمال کے لئے فروخت کر دیئے گئے۔ علاوہ ازیں افغان مجاہدین کی کارکردگی بے حد ناقص تھی وہ جلال آباد پر قبضہ میں ناکام رہے جہاں وہ اپنی عبوری حکومت قائم کرنے کا خواب دیکھ رہے تھے سفارت کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ مجاہدین کی ناقص فوجی کارکردگی کو بہتر بنانے اور ان کی حوصلہ افزائی کے لئے امریکہ افغان مجاہدین کے کمانڈروں سے قریبی تعلقات کا خواہاں ہے تاکہ وہ ایک ایسی پوزیشن پر پہنچ جائیں جہاں وہ نجیب اللہ سے مذاکرات کر سکیں۔

اخبار کابل ٹائمز نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ واشنگٹن افغان مجاہدین کی حوصلہ افزائی کے لئے ۲۰۱ ملین ڈالر کے ہتھیار سپلائی کرے گا جن کے بارے میں افغان حکومت کا کہنا ہے کہ ان ہتھیاروں کو اس موسم گرما میں کابل اور دوسرے شہروں پر بڑے پیمانے پر حملہ میں استعمال کیا جائے گا۔ اسلام آباد میں سفارتی ذرائع نے بھی اس خبر کی تصدیق کی کہ آئندہ دو ماہ میں امریکہ کی جانب سے بڑے پیمانے پر ہتھیاروں کی سپلائی متوقع ہے۔



[illegible]

دیکھنے میں تو تگڑا لگتا ہے، لیکن باتیں زنانیوں کی سی کرتا ہے

ہوا کا جھونکا آیا۔ خزاں رسیدہ پتے درختوں سے ٹوٹ ٹوٹ کر گرے اور دور دور تک بکھر گئے۔ یہ مارچ کی ایک ویران رات تھی۔ لاری اسٹینڈ سنسان پڑا تھا۔ دکانیں بند تھیں۔ روشنیاں بجھ چکی تھیں۔ دونوں اندھیرے میں دم بخود کھڑے تھے۔ سامنے لکڑی کی بنچ پر کوئی چادر اوڑھے لیٹا تھا۔ قریب ہی ایک آوارہ کتا ہڈی چبا رہا تھا۔ ہڈی اس کے دانتوں تلے رگڑ کر ایک عجیب انداز سے بجتی اور اس کی آواز سناٹے میں تحلیل ہو جاتی۔

دونوں سایوں کی مانند تاریکی میں دھندلے دھندلے نظر آ رہے تھے۔ ایک کا قد کسی قدر نکلتا ہوا تھا' چھریرا جسم تھا' آنکھیں چھوٹی چھوٹی تھیں' اور اندر دھنسی ہوئی تھیں' رنگ گندمی تھا یہ رحیم داد تھا اور دوسرا لال دین تھا مگر سب اسے لالی کہتے تھے۔ وہ گٹھے ہوئے بدن کا مضبوط جوان تھا۔ دونوں کی حجامت بڑھی ہوئی تھی۔ سروں کے بال خشک اور بے ترتیب تھے۔ لالی بنچ پر لیٹے ہوئے آدمی کی چادر اتار لینا چاہتا تھا۔ اس نے چادر کا کونہ پکڑ کر آہستہ سے کھینچا۔ وہ چونک پڑا۔ کروٹ بدلی اور نیند میں ڈوبی ہوئی آواز میں بڑبڑایا۔

"اوئے تنگ نہ کر"

اب وہ خاموش لیٹا تھا۔ رحیم داد اور لالی کو مطلق اندازہ نہ تھا کہ وہ سو رہا تھا یا جاگ رہا تھا۔ دونوں سراسیمگی کے عالم میں کچھ دیر دم سادھے کھڑے رہے۔ جب کوئی آہٹ ہوئی نہ آواز' تو وہ دبے دبے قدموں سے چلتے ہوئے آگے بڑھ گئے۔

رحیم داد نے چلتے چلتے لالی سے پوچھا "رات کتنی رہ گئی ہے؟" اس کے لہجے سے تھکن اور بیزاری جھلک رہی تھی۔

"ابھی بہت رہتی ہے" لالی نے گردن اٹھا کر آسمان پر چمکتے ہوئے ستاروں کو دیکھا چند لمحہ خاموش رہا پھر قدموں کی رفتار ذرا تیز کرتے ہوئے اس نے رحیم داد کی طرف دیکھا تیکھے لہجے میں بولا

"اڑیل گھوڑی نہ بن مرداں والی چال چل۔"

"تو نے فیر تھانیداری شروع کر دی۔" رحیم داد نے احتجاج کیا۔

"ایسا کر یہیں لیٹ جا" لالی نے ایک بار پھر مڑ کر اس کی جانب دیکھا "میں بیٹھ کر تیرے پاؤں دباتا ہوں یہی چاہتا ہے نا؟"

رحیم داد نے زبان سے ایک لفظ نکالے بغیر گھور کر لالی کی طرف دیکھا اور چپ چاپ اس کے پیچھے پیچھے چلنے لگا۔

آدھی رات تک دونوں منٹگمری جیل میں قیدی تھے۔ رحیم داد کو بلوے اور اقدام قتل کے جرم میں تین سال قید بامشقت ہوئی تھی۔ جیل ہی میں اس کی ملاقات لالی سے ہوئی۔ وہ پہلے سے وہاں موجود تھا' اور ڈیڑھ سال کی سزا بھگت رہا تھا۔ ایک روز لالی نے رحیم داد کو اعتماد میں لیا' اور جیل سے فرار ہونے کا منصوبہ بنایا۔ رحیم داد پہلے ذرا جھجکا' اور انکار میں گردن ہلانے لگا مگر جب لالی نے اس کا حوصلہ بڑھایا' اور قید کی گھٹن سے نکل کر آزاد فضا میں سانس لینے کی تمنا خوف و ہراس پر غالب آ گئی' تو وہ لالی کے ساتھ فرار ہونے پر آمادہ ہو گیا۔ جیل کے گھڑیال نے رات کے بارہ بجائے پہرہ بدلا نئے پہرے دار بیرکوں اور چکیوں کے تالے بجا بجا کر "کانٹا" "تالا سب ٹھیک ہے" کی صدائیں بلند کر چکے تو لالی نے اپنا کام دکھایا' وہ رحیم داد کے ہمراہ نہایت صفائی سے جیل کی اونچی فصیل پھاند کر باہر نکلا۔ کسی کو کانوں کان خبر نہ ہوئی۔

جیل سے بھاگے ہوئے دو گھنٹے سے اوپر ہو چکے تھے' انہیں یقین تھا کہ صبح گنتی ہونے سے پہلے کسی کو ان کے فرار ہونے کی خبر نہ ہوگی۔ ان کے پاس چند گھنٹے اور تھے اس عرصے میں وہ جلد سے جلد بہت دور نکل جانا چاہتے تھے۔ جیل سے فرار ہونے کے بعد وہ کچھ دیر ایک ویرانے میں بھٹکتے رہے' پھر عارف والا روڈ پر آ گئے۔ اور چلتے چلتے لاری اسٹینڈ پر پہنچ گئے۔

لاری اسٹینڈ اب بہت پیچھے رہ گیا تھا۔ جیل اس سے بھی پیچھے تھی' رات کا پچھلا پہر تھا ستارے اجلے اجلے کنول بن گئے تھے سڑک ویران تھی۔ دونوں جانب درخت تھے پت جھڑ کے دن تھے۔ ہوا میں تیزی کے ساتھ ساتھ ہلکی ہلکی خنکی بھی تھی۔ سڑک پر بکھرے ہوئے خشک پتے تیز جھونکوں سے خاموشی میں کھڑکھڑا رہے تھے۔

لالی اور رحیم داد ننگے پیر تھے۔ وہ پچھلے کئی گھنٹوں سے مسلسل چل رہے تھے اور تھکن کے باوجود تیز تیز قدموں سے چلنے کی کوشش کر رہے تھے۔ انہیں اس علاقے کے بارے میں کوئی اندازہ نہ تھا۔ نہ راستوں کا پتہ تھا اور نہ کوئی ایسا ٹھکانہ جانتے تھے' جہاں وہ روپوش ہو سکتے۔ وہ منزل سے بے خبر آگے' اور آگے بڑھتے جا رہے تھے۔ رحیم داد کچھ زیادہ ہی تھکا ہوا تھا کہنے لگا۔

"لالی یہ تو بتا ہم کہاں جا رہے ہیں؟"

"یہ تو مجھے بھی پتہ نہیں۔" لالی نے بے نیازی سے جواب دیا۔

"تحمل نہ کر' ٹھیک ٹھیک گل کر اس طرح ہم نے کب تک چلتے رہنا ہے۔"

لالی نے رحیم داد کا بازو تھام کر انگلیوں سے گوشت ٹٹولا "دیکھنے میں تو تگڑا لگتا ہے' پر باتیں زنانیوں کی سی کرتا ہے' حوصلے سے کام لے' ایسے تو اپنے ساتھ مجھے بھی مروا دے گا۔"

رحیم داد کچھ کہنے ہی والا تھا کہ عقب سے ہارن کی تیز آواز ابھری۔ دونوں نے پلٹ کر دیکھا سڑک کے موڑ سے روشنی ابھری' اور خزاں رسیدہ درختوں کی برہنہ شاخوں سے چھن چھن کر ہر طرف بکھرنے لگی۔ وہ جھٹ سڑک سے نیچے اترے' اور ایک گھنی جھاڑی کی اوٹ میں دبک کر بیٹھ گئے۔ رحیم زیادہ سہما ہوا تھا۔ وہ گہری گہری سانس بھر رہا تھا لالی بھی خوف زدہ تھا۔ مگر چہرے سے ظاہر نہ ہونے دیتا تھا' روشنی قریب آتی گئی سڑک پہیوں کے تیزی سے دوڑنے کی آواز گونجتی رہی اور پھر اچانک جیپ عین ان کے سامنے آ کر ٹھہر گئی جیپ میں چار سپاہی سوار تھے ایک ڈرائیور کے برابر بیٹھا تھا۔ تین پچھلی نشست پر تھے ان کے ہاتھوں میں رائفلیں دبی ہوئی تھیں جیپ رکتے ہی اگلی نشست سے ایک شخص نیچے اترا وضع قطع سے ڈرائیور معلوم ہوتا تھا اس کے باہر آتے ہی ایک رینجر بھی جیپ سے باہر اتر کر سڑک پر آ گیا وہ آہستہ آہستہ چلتا ہوا جھاڑی کے قریب پہنچا اور اطمینان سے پیشاب کرنے لگا۔

رحیم داد اور لالی سانس روکے بیٹھے رہے' کبھی کبھی نظروں سے اسے دیکھتے رہے۔ ہوا کے تھپیڑوں سے چھینٹے اڑ کر ان کے چہروں پر گرتے رہے۔ مگر ڈر کے مارے انہوں نے ذرا بھی جنبش نہ کی۔ سڑک پر ڈرائیور جھک جھک کر جیپ کے پہیے دیکھ رہا تھا رحیم داد کو کھانسی کا ٹھسکا محسوس ہوا اس کے حلق کے اندر خرخر ہونے لگی۔ لالی نے ہاتھ بڑھا کر اس کا دم گھونٹ لیا۔ اسی لمحہ ڈرائیور کی آواز ابھری

"پنکچر تو نہیں لگتا جی' پر ایک پہیے میں ہوا ضرور کم ہے۔"

جھاڑی کے قریب کھڑے ہوئے رینجر نے گردن موڑ کر اونچی آواز سے کہا "اسٹیشن تک تو پہنچ ہی جائے گی۔ وہاں پٹرول پمپ سے ہوا بھروا لینا۔" وہ پتلون کے بٹن لگاتا ہوا جیپ کی جانب بڑھنے لگا۔

لالی اور رحیم داد جھاڑی سے اسے دیکھتے رہے ڈرائیور اور رینجر جیپ میں سوار ہوئے رات کے سناٹے میں جیپ کا انجن زور زور سے گھڑگھڑایا۔ جیپ آگے بڑھی اور تیزی سے سڑک پر دوڑنے لگی۔ ذرا دیر بعد نظروں سے اوجھل ہو گئی۔ لالی گردن اٹھائے اسے دور تک دیکھتا رہا پھر رحیم داد کی پیٹھ پر زور سے دھپ مار کر بے تکلفی سے بولا

"تو نے مروا ہی دیا تھا رحیمے"

"سور دا پتر بالکل منہ پر کھڑا موت رہا تھا۔" رحیم داد نے منہ بگاڑ کر بیزاری سے کہا

"تیری کھانسی سے تو بیڑا ہی غرق ہو جاتا" لالی نے مسکرا کر کہا "وہ تو میں نے جھٹ تیرے منہ پر ہاتھ رکھ دیا۔ ورنہ دونوں فیر جیل کی ہوا کھاتے۔" لالی اٹھ کر کھڑا ہو گیا اس نے رحیم داد کا ہاتھ پکڑ کر کھینچا "اب یہیں بیٹھا رہے گا جلدی کر' ابھی بہت چلنا ہے۔"

رحیم داد بھی کھڑا ہو گیا لیکن خاموش رہا۔ لالی نے دریافت کیا "تو کس سوچ میں پڑ گیا رحیمے؟"

رحیم داد بولا "سوچ رہا ہوں [illegible] کہیں انہیں ہمارے جیل سے فرار ہونے کا پتہ تو نہیں چل گیا؟"

"پولیس کے تو نہیں تھے وردی سے تو رینجر لگتے تھے" لالی نے کہا "پر ہمیں یہاں سے جلدی دور نکل جانا چاہئے۔"

"ہم نے جانا کہاں ہے؟ اپنی تو کچھ سمجھ میں نہیں آتا" رحیم داد نے اپنی پریشانی کا اظہار کیا لالی نے اس کا حوصلہ بڑھایا "پرواہ نہ کر بس ذرا تیز قدم بڑھا کر چل"

دونوں جھاڑی سے نکل کر سڑک پر آ گئے اور خشک پتوں کو روندتے ہوئے آگے بڑھنے لگے انہوں نے دو ڈھائی میل راستہ طے کیا ہوگا کہ بنجر اور اجاڑ علاقہ ختم ہو گیا۔ اب کھیتوں کا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا تھا۔ سڑک پر چلنا خطرے سے خالی نہ تھا دونوں سڑک سے اتر کر کھیتوں کے درمیان سے گزرنے والے کچے راستے پر چلنے لگے۔ یہ اتنا کشادہ کچا راستہ تھا کہ دونوں ساتھ ساتھ چل سکتے تھے۔

بقیہ:۔ سری لنکا تشدد

پاتا تھا۔ سری لنکا میں موجود بھارتی فوج کی تعداد ۴۰ ہزار بیان کی جاتی ہے اور عوامی محاذ آزادی جے وی پی کے سنہالی انتہاپسندوں نے ان کے خلاف تشدد کی مہم شروع کر رکھی ہے۔ کرفیو میں دس گھنٹے کے وقفہ کے دوران' جو اشیائے ضروریہ کی خرید و فروخت کے لئے دیا گیا تھا سڑکوں پر گاڑیوں کا شاذ و نادر ہی گزر تھا تاہم نصف کے لگ بھگ دکانیں بند رہیں جو بظاہر جے وی پی کی طرف سے عام ہڑتال کی اپیل کے باعث نہیں کھلیں۔ حکام نے سہ پہر چار بجے دوبارہ کرفیو نافذ کر دیا۔ سری لنکا کی قومی سلامتی کونسل' جو صدر رانا سنگھے پریما داسا' ارکان کابینہ اور سینئر فوجی و پولیس حکام پر مشتمل ہے' کا اجلاس آج رات گئے شروع ہوا جس میں یہ فیصلہ کیا جانا تھا [illegible] سرکاری خبروں میں بتایا گیا کہ جمعہ کے روز شروع ہونے والی تشدد کی لہر میں' جو ملک کے وسطی اور شمالی علاقوں میں پھیلی' کم از کم ۱۵۵ افراد ہلاک ہوئے اور زیادہ تر اموات سیکورٹی فورسز کی فائرنگ کے نتیجہ میں ہوئیں جو بھارت کے خلاف لاتعداد مظاہروں پر قابو پانے کے لئے کی گئی۔ حکام نے بتایا کہ جے وی پی کے انتہاپسندوں نے اتوار کی صبح پولیس کے ایک گشتی دستے پر حملہ کیا جب سیکورٹی ارکان کولمبو کے جنوبی مضافات سے گزر رہے تھے۔ خود کار ہتھیاروں سے کی جانے والی گولیوں کی بوچھاڑ میں ایک شہری ڈرائیور ہلاک اور چار افسر زخمی ہو گئے جبکہ حملہ آور فرار ہو جانے میں کامیاب ہو گئے۔ انتہاپسندوں نے اپنے ریڈیو پر بھارت کے خلاف مہم کو وسیع کرنے کے منصوبوں کا بھی اعلان کیا ہے اور بھارتی فوج کی واپسی کی علامتی شروعات کو پروپیگنڈہ قرار دے کر مسترد کر دیا ہے۔

بقیہ:۔ رفسنجانی

دیا جن کے تحت وزیر اعظم کا عہدہ ختم کر دیا گیا ہے اور صدر کے اختیارات وسیع کر دیئے گئے ہیں تین لاکھ ستانوے ہزار آٹھ سو ووٹ نفی میں آئے۔ محتشمی نے کہا کہ جمعہ کے صدارتی انتخاب و ریفرنڈم میں رائے دہی کا تناسب ایک ریکارڈ کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے جس سے اسلامی انقلاب کی طاقت اور استحکام کا ثبوت ملتا ہے اگرچہ انقلاب دشمنوں کی دھمکیاں منصوبے اور سازشیں بھی جاری رہیں جن کا مقصد جمہوری انتخابی عمل کو درہم برہم کرنا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بائیں بازو کے شدت پسند اور لبرل گروپوں نے تخریب کاری کی دھمکیاں دی تھیں اور عوام سے کہا تھا کہ وہ پولنگ میں حصہ نہ لیں لیکن ایرانی سیکورٹی نے ہتھیار اور گولہ بارود اسمگل کرنے کی کوششیں ناکام بنا دیں اور غیر ملکی ایجنٹوں سے تعاون کرنے والے عناصر کو گرفتار کر لیا لیکن انہوں نے اس کی مزید تفصیل نہیں بتائی' ایران میں ۱۶ سال تک کی عمر کے اہل رائے دہندگان کی کل تعداد ۲ کروڑ چالیس لاکھ ہے۔

بقیہ:۔ مقبوضہ علاقے

فوجی ترجمان نے دعویٰ کیا کہ کار کا کے قریب ایک فوجی گشتی دستے پر پتھراؤ کی بوچھاڑ کر کے حملہ کیا گیا تھا اور فوج نے مظاہرین کو منتشر کرنے کے لئے کارروائی کی جس میں ایک سترہ سالہ عرب زخمی ہوا۔ ایک فوجی گاڑی اسے ہسپتال لے جانے کے لئے طلب کی گئی مگر وہ راستہ ہی میں رہ گئی کیونکہ مظاہرین نے سڑک پر پتھر بکھیر رکھے تھے۔ اسرائیلی فوج کے ہاتھوں تازہ ترین ہلاکت کے بعد فلسطینی احتجاجی تحریک میں' جو ۱۹ ماہ سے لگاتار مقبوضہ علاقہ میں اسرائیلی قابض فورسز کے خلاف چلائی جا رہی ہے اب تک کم از کم ۷۳ عرب اپنی جانیں دے چکے ہیں جبکہ اس دوران ۳۹ یہودی ہلاک ہوئے۔ مغربی کنارے اور غزہ پٹی میں فلسطینیوں نے شناختی کارڈ کی پابندی کے خلاف عام ہڑتال کی اور اپنی دکانیں اور ٹرانسپورٹ بند رکھی۔ یہ ہڑتال تحریک کی قیادت کی اپیل پر کی گئی تھی۔ جس کا مقصد اسرائیل کے اس حکم پر احتجاج کرنا تھا جس میں غزہ میں آنے والوں کو لازم قرار دیا گیا کہ وہ کمپیوٹر کوڈ کے حامل شناختی کارڈ پاس رکھیں۔ عرب قوم پرستوں نے ایسے کارڈ ضبط کر کے جلا ڈالے ہیں جو اسرائیلی حکام نے فلسطینیوں کو جاری کئے تھے۔ ہڑتال کے باوجود مقبوضہ کنارے کے مدارس کھلے رہے لیکن مکینوں کا کہنا ہے کہ فوج نے کچھ طلبا کو سکول کی عمارت میں داخل ہونے سے باز رکھا۔ مغربی کنارے کی یہودی بستی کریات اربا میں پولیس نے انتہاپسند یہودی تنظیم "کچ" کے دو ارکان کو گرفتار کر لیا جن پر عرب دشمن سرگرمیوں میں ملوث ہونے کا الزام تھا۔ دریں اثناء سپریم کورٹ نے ایک فیصلہ میں قرار دیا کہ فوجی فرائض کی بجا آوری کی ضرورت کے تحت حکام مقبوضہ علاقہ میں عربوں کے مکانات مسمار کر سکتے ہیں اور ایسا مکینوں کو اطلاع [illegible] بھی کیا جا سکتا ہے۔

بقیہ:۔ افغان مجاہدین

حمایت حاصل رہی ہے سوویت فوج کے انخلاء کے بعد کابل حکومت کے خلاف کوئی نمایاں فوجی کامیابی حاصل کرنے میں ناکام رہے ہیں۔ جمعیت اسلامی کا موقف ہے کہ اس کے گیارہ فیلڈ کمانڈروں سمیت ۳۰ مجاہدین پر حزب اسلامی کے اراکین نے ۹ جولائی کو شمالی افغان صوبہ تخار میں حملہ کیا جب وہ مجاہدین کمانڈر احمد شاہ مسعود کے ساتھ ایک فوجی اجلاس میں شرکت کے بعد واپس آ رہے تھے۔ ۵ مجاہدین حملے میں مارے گئے جبکہ بقیہ ۲۵ کو اگلے دن پھانسی دے دی گئی۔ جمعیت کا کہنا ہے کہ اس منصوبے کی منظوری حزب اسلامی کی قیادت نے دی تھی۔ حزب اسلامی اس واقعہ کا اعتراف کرتی ہے جس نے پہلے پہل اسے پارٹیوں کے اندرونی تنازع کی بجائے ذاتی تنازعہ کا شاخسانہ قرار دیا لیکن ہفتہ کے روز حکمت یار کے ایک بیان میں الزام لگایا گیا کہ جمعیت حزب اسلامی کے ارکان پر مظالم ڈھا رہی ہے اور متواتر حملے کر کے انہیں ہلاک کیا جا رہا ہے۔ حکمت یار کو اتحاد سے نکالنے کا مطالبہ ہزاروں مجاہدین کے ایک اجتماع میں کیا گیا جو پشاور کے باہر منعقد ہوا تھا جس میں مجددی اور حکمت یار کے خلاف نعرے بھی لگائے گئے۔

بقیہ:۔ بارشیں

کے کئی گاؤں زیر آب آ گئے ہیں جنوبی شہر کاکس بازار میں تیس ماہی گیر لاپتہ ہیں جو مچھلیاں پکڑنے خلیج بنگال میں اترے ہوئے تھے کہ سمندر میں اچانک طوفان آ گیا۔ ملک کی بڑی بندرگاہ چٹاگانگ میں بھی پانی کھڑا ہے۔ بارشوں کے باعث مکان گرنے سے ۱۲ افراد ہلاک ہو گئے۔ طوفانی ہواؤں سے بنگلہ دیش کے پورے ساحل پر زندگی مفلوج ہو کر رہ گئی ہے اور ساحلی بستیوں کے لوگ گھر چھوڑ کر چلے گئے ہیں۔ بارشوں اور سیلاب سے کھڑی فصلوں کو شدید نقصان پہنچا ہے۔ محکمہ موسمیات کا کہنا ہے کہ ملک کے تمام دریا طغیانی میں ہیں جس سے سیلاب کا شدید خطرہ پیدا ہو گیا ہے۔ پیش گوئی کے مطابق آئندہ چند روز میں طوفان اور سیلاب کی صورت حال مزید خراب ہونے کا اندیشہ ہے۔ گزشتہ سال ستمبر میں بنگلہ دیش کے بدترین سیلاب میں ۳ ہزار افراد ہلاک اور لاکھوں بے گھر ہو گئے تھے اور لاکھوں ٹن غلہ تباہ ہو گیا تھا۔ وسط مئی میں طوفان سے مرنے والوں کی تعداد ۲۰۰ تک پہنچ گئی ہے جبکہ پانچ سو افراد زخمی ہوئے ہیں۔ طوفانی ہواؤں بارشوں اور سیلاب سے ۸۰ ہزار مکان زمین بوس ہو گئے ہیں اور ایک لاکھ ساٹھ ہزار ایکڑ اراضی پر دھان کی فصل تباہ ہو گئی ہے۔ سمندری طوفان سے ۳۴۰ کشتیاں اور جہاز غرق ہو گئے ہیں جبکہ ۳۸۷ کو نقصان پہنچا۔

بقیہ:۔ ہند، لنکا مذاکرات

روز بھارت کے دورہ پر نئی دہلی پہنچے تھے اور یہاں حکام سے بھارتی امن فوج کی واپسی پر بات چیت شروع کی تھی جو دو سال قبل سری لنکا اور بھارت کے درمیان امن معاہدہ طے پانے کے بعد سری لنکا کے شمالی اور مشرقی علاقوں میں متعین کی گئی تھی تاکہ تامل بغاوت کے خاتمہ میں مدد دے سری لنکا کے تامل باغیوں نے الگ وطن کے قیام کی غرض سے حکومت کے خلاف لڑائی ۱۹۸۳ء میں شروع کی تھی۔ تاہم سری لنکا اور بھارت کے درمیان فوج کی واپسی پر شدید تنازعہ کھڑا ہو گیا جب سری لنکا کے نئے صدر راناسنگھے پریما داسا نے' جن کی حکومت آج کل باغیوں سے امن مذاکرات کر رہی ہے' بھارت سے مطالبہ کیا کہ وہ اپنی فوج ۲۹ جولائی تک واپس بلا لے اور دریں اثناء تامل باغیوں کے خلاف فوجی کارروائی بند کر دے۔ بھارت نے موقف اختیار کیا تھا کہ باہمی طور پر منظم نظام عمل کے تحت ہی بھارتی فوج کا انخلاء عمل میں آ سکتا ہے لیکن صدر پریما داسا کی طرف سے دی گئی میعاد کے اختتام سے قبل ہی بھارت نے فوج کی واپسی علامتی طور پر شروع کرنے کا اعلان کر کے کشیدگی کو وسعت اختیار کرنے سے بچا لیا۔ پریما داسا نے گزشتہ روز قوم سے خطاب میں بھارتی فوجوں کی واپسی کا عمل شروع ہونے کو سری لنکا کی فتح قرار دیا۔

بقیہ:۔ شیوارڈ ناڈزے

اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم محسوس کرتے ہیں کہ بعض معاملات میں امریکہ' افغانستان میں سیاسی عمل کی حوصلہ افزائی کی بجائے انتہاپسندوں کو شہہ دے رہا ہے۔ بیکر اور شیوارڈ ناڈزے کمبوڈیا پر ۱۹ ملکی عالمی کانفرنس سے قبل پیرس میں ہیں جو اتوار کو شروع ہو رہی ہے۔ امریکہ اور سوویت یونین دونوں افغانستان پر طے پانے والے جنیوا معاہدہ میں گارنٹی دینے والے ملکوں کی حیثیت رکھتے ہیں جس کے تحت فروری میں افغانستان سے سوویت فوج کا انخلاء مکمل ہوا تھا لیکن دونوں سپر طاقتیں افغانستان میں ہتھیاروں کی فراہمی کا سلسلہ جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں سوویت یونین کابل کی نجیب حکومت اور امریکہ افغان مجاہدین کو اسلحہ دے رہا ہے۔ حال ہی میں افغان دارالحکومت کابل پر مجاہدین کے راکٹ حملوں میں ساٹھ سے زائد افراد ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں۔ سوویت وزیر خارجہ شیوارڈ ناڈزے نے کہا کہ پچھلے چند مہینوں میں افغانستان میں جو کچھ سامنے آیا ہے وہ یہ ثابت کرنے کیلئے کافی ہے کہ مسئلہ کے فوجی حل کی کوشش بے فائدہ ہے اور زیادہ توجہ سیاسی کوششوں اور قومی مفاہمت کے لئے صرف کی جانی چاہئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان کی حکومت نے ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ وہ اپنے طور پر بھی اپنا وجود برقرار رکھ سکتی ہے۔

بقیہ:۔ حزب اللہ

لبنان کے درمیان آنے جانے کی پانچ گزرگاہیں بھی اسرائیلی حلیف ملیشیا کے ارکان جلد بند کر دیں گے۔ لبنانی امل ملیشیا کے سربراہ نبیہ بری نے کہا ہے کہ اسرائیلی حملہ کی غیر معمولی نوعیت کے پیش نظر جوابی کارروائی بھی انتہائی سخت کی جائے گی اور انہوں نے لبنانی حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا کہ اسرائیلی کارروائی کے خلاف اقوام متحدہ میں احتجاج کیا جائے۔ انہوں نے شیخ عبید کے اغواء کی مذمت کے لئے پیر کو ملک بھر میں عام ہڑتال کرنے کی اپیل بھی کی۔ دوسری طرف لندن کے اخبار سنڈے ٹائمز نے دعوی کیا ہے کہ شیخ عبید کے اغواء کا واقعہ اسرائیل اور ایران کے درمیان تین لاپتہ اسرائیلی فوجیوں کی بازیابی کے لئے ہونے والے خفیہ مذاکرات کی ناکامی کا نتیجہ تھا۔ اخبار نے نام لئے بغیر ذرائع کے حوالے سے کہا کہ اسرائیل اور ایرانی حکومتوں کے نمائندوں نے پچھلے ماہ لندن میں خفیہ اجلاس کئے تھے مگر مذاکرات میں پیش رفت نہ ہونے پر بات چیت کا سلسلہ ٹوٹ گیا اور اسرائیل نے شیخ عبید کو اغواء کرنے کی کارروائی کی۔ اخبار کے مطابق اسرائیل کے چیف ملٹری انٹیلی جنس میجر جنرل امنون شہاک دس روز پہلے لندن میں موجود تھے اور برطانوی دفتر خارجہ نے کہا تھا کہ وہ نجی دورے پر ہیں اور لندن کے اسرائیلی سفارت خانہ نے بھی اس وقت ان کے دورے کے بارے میں کوئی تفصیل بتانے سے احتراز کیا تھا۔ برطانیہ اور امریکہ کی طرف سے اسرائیل کی اغواء کی کارروائی کی مذمت کی جا چکی ہے دریں اثناء امریکہ نے اسرائیل سے وہ معلومات طلب کر لی ہیں جو لبنان میں اغواء شدہ مسلمان رہنما سے پوچھ گچھ کے نتیجہ میں اسرائیل کو حاصل ہوئی ہیں اس کا انکشاف وزارت خارجہ کے ایک افسر نے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ معلومات سے متعلق درخواست واشنگٹن میں کی گئی تاہم انہیں علم نہیں کہ اسرائیل نے اس کا کوئی جواب دیا ہے یا نہیں۔

بقیہ:۔ کال گرل

کاروبار میں استعمال کیا جاتا ہے جو مجرموں کو قانونی گرفت سے بچا کروانے میں مدد دیتی ہیں' اس نے انکشاف کیا کہ پنجاب کی ایک اعلیٰ شخصیت کے عزیزان کال گرل کو اقبال بیگ اور فضل حق کے ناجائز کاروبار کے لئے استعمال کرتے ہیں اور یہ خوبرو لڑکیاں بیرون ملک سے آنے والے اسمگلروں کا دل بہلاتی ہیں۔ وجاہت نازلی نے کہا کہ ان لڑکیوں کو باقاعدہ تربیت دی جاتی ہے اور انہیں مختلف غیر ملکی زبانوں پر عبور حاصل ہوتا ہے ان کال گرلز کو دھمکیاں دی جاتی ہیں کہ وہ کوئی راز افشاء نہ کریں' اس سلسلے میں ایکسائز انسپکٹر ان سب کی نگرانی کرتا ہے جو خود بھی منشیات کے کاروبار میں ملوث ہے' وجاہت نازلی نے کہا یہ بدنام زمانہ لوگ اس صفائی اور ہوشیاری سے کام کرتے ہیں کہ دوسرے کو کانوں کان خبر نہیں ہوتی میں نے پانچ سال یہ دھندا کیا لیکن اقبال بیگ اور فضل حق کی شکل نہیں دیکھی اور اب میں اس کاروبار سے تنگ آ گئی ہوں مجھے اس کاروبار سے نفرت ہو گئی ہے۔

بقیہ:۔ کمبوڈیا

وزیر خارجہ بھی شرکت کرنے والے تھے۔ کمبوڈیا کے چار متحارب فریق بنیادی طور پر تمام اہم موضوعات پر اختلافات کا شکار ہیں۔ انہوں نے نشستوں کے انتظام پر اختلاف کی وجہ سے مذاکرات کا تقریباً بائیکاٹ کر دیا تھا کہ آخری وقت پر جا کر یہ مسئلہ حل ہوا۔ امریکہ چاہتا ہے کہ سابق شاہ سیہانوک نوم پنہ کی عبوری حکومت کے سربراہ بن کر وطن واپس آئیں جس میں متنازعہ کے تمام فریق شامل ہوں اور اس کے بعد عام انتخابات کرائے جائیں۔ لیکن وہ نہیں چاہتا کہ اتحاد میں شامل کمیر روج' جو طاقتور ترین گروپ ہے' اقتدار کی پوزیشن میں آئے۔ ویت نام نواز کمبوڈیا کی مملکت ہنا' جن کی نمائندگی وزیراعظم ہن سین کر رہے ہیں' بھی کمیر روج کی حکومت میں واپسی کے خواہاں نہیں لیکن سیہانوک کا اصرار ہے کہ انہیں مستقبل کی کسی بھی مفاہمتی حکومت میں شامل ہونا چاہئے۔ کانفرنس کے افتتاحی اجلاس میں سوویت وزیر خارجہ ایڈورڈ شیوارڈ ناڈزے اور امریکی وزیر خارجہ جیمز بیکر اپنی اپنی حکومتوں کی نمائندگی کر رہے ہیں۔ کانفرنس میں شریک دیگر ملکوں میں جاپان' اور جنوب مشرقی ایشیائی ممالک کی ایسوسی ایشن آسیان کے چھ ممالک بھی شامل ہیں۔ اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل جاویر پیریز ڈی کوئیار ذاتی حیثیت میں کانفرنس میں شریک ہو رہے ہیں۔

بقیہ:۔ شیخ زائد

اقوام متحدہ کی قرار داد ۵۹۸ کی روشنی میں حالت جنگ کے خاتمہ اور علاقہ میں پائیدار امن کے قیام کے لئے سنجیدہ کوشش کریں۔ گزشتہ سال ۲۰ اگست کی جنگ بندی کے بعد دونوں ملکوں نے مذاکرات شروع کر دیئے تھے مگر ابھی تک اس سلسلہ میں کوئی قابل ذکر پیش رفت نہیں ہوئی ہے۔ شیخ زائد نے اپنے مبارکباد کے پیغام میں امید ظاہر کی کہ ہاشمی رفسنجانی کی جیت سے ایران کے اپنے ہمسایہ ممالک سے تعلقات میں نئے باب کا آغاز ہو گا۔ قطر کے امیر شیخ خلیفہ بن حمد الثانی نے بھی ہاشمی رفسنجانی کو مبارکباد کا پیغام ارسال کیا ہے۔ خلیجی اخبارات نے رفسنجانی کے انتخاب کی خبر نمایاں طور پر شائع کی ہے مگر کسی نے قابل ذکر اداریہ تحریر نہیں کیا ہے۔ امارات میں ایک سفارت کار کا کہنا ہے کہ نتیجہ کا پہلے ہی سب کو علم تھا۔ اردن نے بھی امید ظاہر کی ہے کہ ایران اب عراق کے ساتھ قیام امن میں سنجیدگی سے حصہ لے گا۔ شام نے اپنے پیغام میں ایران سے تعلقات میں اضافہ کی امید کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ صدر اسد نے اس اعتماد کا اظہار کیا کہ صیہونیت اور جارحیت کے خلاف ہماری جدوجہد جاری رہے گی۔

بقیہ:۔ کرکٹ

وقفہ کے بعد کل شروع ہو رہا ہے۔ آسٹریلیا نے اپنی پہلی اننگز میں ۴۴۱ رنز بنائے ہیں اور اس کے ۵ کھلاڑی آؤٹ ہو چکے ہیں۔ انگلینڈ کا اسکور ۲۶۰ رنز تھا۔ آسٹریلیا کو ۱۸۱ رنز کی برتری حاصل ہے۔ انگلینڈ کے کھلاڑیوں کو قتل کی دھمکیاں دی گئی ہیں۔ اخبار نویسوں کے سوالوں کی بوچھاڑ سے بچنے کے لئے وہ گزشتہ روز پریس کانفرنس سے بھی غائب رہے جو اولڈ ٹریفورڈ میں تیسرے روز کے کھیل کے بعد منعقد ہوئی۔ اخبارات نے اپنے خصوصی کالموں میں کپتان گاور سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ رضاکارانہ طور پر کپتانی چھوڑ دیں۔ سنڈے ایکسپریس نے لکھا ہے کہ گاور کو پیچھے ہٹ جانا چاہئے کیونکہ انگلینڈ کی کرکٹ کے ساتھ جو کچھ ہو چکا ہے وہ کافی ہے۔ انگلینڈ نے ایشیز ٹرافی بارڈر کی جھولی میں ڈال دی ہے۔ پریس کانفرنس میں انگلینڈ کی ٹیم کے منیجر مکی سٹیورٹ نے گاور کا دفاع کرتے ہوئے وضاحت کی کہ گاور کو جس طرح سے ذاتی عناد اور طعن و تشنیع کا نشانہ بنایا جا رہا ہے اسی وجہ سے وہ آج یہاں نہیں آیا۔ اس کی یہ وجہ نہیں کہ گاور تنقید سے خوفزدہ ہے بلکہ اس کے خلاف نازیبا الفاظ استعمال کئے گئے جس سے ان کی تذلیل کا پہلو نکلتا ہے۔ سٹیورٹ نے اس الزام کی تردید کی کہ گاور کپتانی کو اپنے لئے بوجھ سمجھتا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ گاور نے اب تک ٹیسٹ میچوں میں کپتانی کی ہے جن میں سے آٹھ ہارے ہیں۔ چوتھا ٹیسٹ آج ایک روز کے

ماسکو ۳۰ جولائی (کونا) سوویت وزیر اعظم نکولائی ریزکوف نے آج سوویت یونین کا دورہ کرنے والے ایران کی بھاری صنعتوں کے وزیر بہزاد نبوی سے باہمی امور صنعتی اور اقتصادی تعاون کے فروغ پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

سوویت آبخازیہ ری پبلک کے دارالحکومت سوخومی کی ایک سڑک پر ٹینک گشت کر رہا ہے (رائٹر وائر فوٹو)

اللہ کے نام سے جو بے انتہا مہربان اور رحم فرمانے والا ہے

اور جن لوگوں نے کفر کیا تھا (ان سے کہا جائے گا) کیا میری آیات تم کو نہیں سنائی جاتی تھیں؟ مگر تم نے تکبر کیا اور مجرم بن کر رہے

سورۃ الجاثیہ آیت ۳۱

حدیث نبویؐ

حضرت عبداللہؓ روایت کرتے ہیں کہ رسول اکرم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا۔ جب کوئی شخص نماز جمعہ کے لئے آئے تو اسے چاہئے کہ غسل کر کے آئے۔

(بخاری)

عقل و دانش

کوئی چیز خریدنے سے قبل بہتر ہوتا ہے کہ اگر آدمی خود سے یہ دریافت کر لے کہ کیا اس کے بغیر کام نہیں چل سکتا۔

جان لیوک

شعر و ادب

بے ذوق نمود زندگی موت
تعمیر خودی میں ہے خدائی

ڈاکٹر اقبال

آج کے دن

۱۷۰۲ء ...... فرانس کے مارشل بائرن کو غداری پر پھانسی دیدی گئی۔

۱۶۵۸ء ...... ہندوستان میں مغل بادشاہ اورنگزیب عالمگیر تخت نشین ہوئے۔

۱۸۱۲ء ...... وینزویلا جمہوریہ نے اسپینی فوجوں کے سامنے ہتھیار ڈال دیئے۔

۱۹۲۶ء ...... افغانستان نے سوویت یونین کے ساتھ عدم جارحیت کا معاہدہ کیا۔

۱۹۵۶ء ...... برطانیہ و مغربی جرمنی نے ایٹمی تعاون کے دس سالہ معاہدہ پر دستخط کئے۔

۱۹۶۴ء ...... امریکی راکٹ رینجر-۷ نے چاند کی پہلی واضح تصویر بھیجی۔

۱۹۷۱ء ...... امریکی راکٹ اپالو-۱۵ کے خلابازوں نے الیکٹرانک کار میں چاند کی سرزمین پر ساڑھے چھ گھنٹے کا سفر کیا۔

۱۹۷۴ء ...... ترکی اور یونان کے مابین قبرص میں فائر بندی کا معاہدہ ہوا۔

۱۹۷۸ء ...... پیرس کے عراقی سفارت خانے میں مسلح افراد نے کئی افراد کو یرغمال بنانے کے بعد ہتھیار ڈال دیئے۔

$$

کرنسی کے نرخ

کویتی دینار کے مقابلے میں غیر ملکی کرنسیوں کی قیمت حسب ذیل رہی۔

پاکستانی روپے	(فی ہزار)	۱۳-۰۵۰
بھارتی روپے	(فی ہزار)	۱۷-۹۰۰
بحرینی دینار	(فی ہزار)	۷۸۳-۱۷۰
اٹلی لیرا	(فی ہزار)	۰-۲۱۸
فرانسیسی فرانک	(فی ہزار)	۴۶-۳۵۰
امریکی ڈالر	(فی ہزار)	۲۹۵-۰۹۰
برطانوی پاؤنڈ	(فی ہزار)	۴۸۸-۷۷۰
جرمن مارک	(فی ہزار)	۱۵۷-۲۴۰
امارات درہم	(فی ہزار)	۸۰-۳۸۰
اومانی	(فی ہزار)	۷۴۱-۶۹۰
جاپانی ین	(فی ہزار)	۲-۱۳۸
سوس فرانک	(فی ہزار)	۱۸۲-۸۱۰
سعودی ریال	(فی ہزار)	۷۸-۷۱۰
قطری ریال	(فی ہزار)	۸۱-۱۲۰

[illegible]

۷-۰۰ افتتاحی اعلان ۷-۰۱ تلاوت قرآن کریم ۷-۱۰ بہترین قول ۷-۱۲ پروگرام کا خلاصہ ۷-۱۷ گانے ۷-۳۰ اخباروں کے تراشے ۷-۴۰ اسلام اور دور حاضر ۸-۰۰ خبریں ۸-۱۵ آج کا انتخاب ۸-۲۰ گانے ۸-۳۵ عربی سیکھئے ۸-۴۰ ہمارے مہمان ۹-۰۰ اختتام

آپ کے ستارے

برج جدی

(۲۰ دسمبر تا ۱۹ جنوری)

آج جلد بور ہو جانے کا امکان ہے لہٰذا اپنے شوق اور دلچسپی کی بحالی کے لئے کوشش کریں کسی مسئلے کے حل کے لئے نئے زاویہ سے غور کرنے پر کامیابی ہو گی کسی اچھے مشورہ کو نظرانداز نہ کریں کم جارحانہ رویہ اختیار کریں۔

برج ثور

(۱۹ اپریل تا ۱۹ مئی)

چیزوں کو یہاں وہاں رکھ کر بھول جانے کا اندیشہ ہے اس کے لئے مثبت اقدامات کریں وعدہ کے مطابق پہنچنے کی کوشش کریں' جبر سے کوئی کام نہ کریں اعتدال پسندی کا رویہ اپنائیں۔

برج سنبلہ

(۲۲ اگست تا ۲۱ ستمبر)

پہلے کے مقابلے میں آج موڈ خوش گوار ہو گا ذیل کے مطابق زیادہ کام کی کوشش کریں ۲۳ اور ۳۸ لکی نمبر ہیں' بہت زیادہ میٹھی چیزیں نہ کھائیں' دانش مندی سے رہیں۔

برج دلو

(۲۰ جنوری تا ۱۸ فروری)

آج کان میں تکلیف ہو گی لہٰذا کسی مرض کو دور کرنے کی کوشش کریں' وعدہ کرنے کے بعد اس کا پاس رکھیں چاہئے اس کا نبھانا مشکل ہی کیوں نہ معلوم ہوتا ہو' دھوکہ بازوں سے ہوشیار رہیں' نرمی سے پیش آئیں۔

برج جوزا

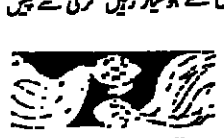
(۲۰ مئی تا ۲۰ جون)

کسی ایک کام پر توجہ دینا مشکل معلوم ہو گا لہٰذا اس سے نمٹنے کے لئے پوری کوشش کریں کسی بات کو کسی اور بات سے جوڑنے کی کوشش نہ کریں جو کہ اہم نہیں ہے دوسروں کی غلطیوں پر نظر رہے' سمجھداری کا مظاہرہ کریں۔

برج میزان

(۲۲ ستمبر تا ۲۲ اکتوبر)

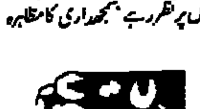
آج پیٹ کی کسی تکلیف میں مبتلا ہیں لہٰذا احتیاط برتیں سستی اختیار کئے بغیر ضروری آرام پر توجہ دیں' کچھ زیادہ سمجھداری سے پیش آئیں' مدد کریں۔



برج حوت

(۱۹ فروری تا ۱۹ مارچ)

اپنے اصولوں کو ترک نہ کریں تاہم اصولوں کی خاطر تعصب برتنے کی غلطی نہ کریں اچانک کسی کام کرنے کی کوشش نہ کریں' قابل احترام بنیں۔



برج سرطان

(۲۱ جون تا ۲۱ جولائی)

آپ کے لئے یہ بہت اچھا وقت ہے تاہم یہ نہ سمجھیں کہ آپ خوش قسمت ثابت ہوں گے ضروری امور پر پوری توجہ دیں' آرام کرنے کے ہر موقعہ سے فائدہ اٹھائیں' کچھ زیادہ محتاط رویہ اپنائیں۔

برج عقرب

(۲۳ اکتوبر تا ۲۱ نومبر)

اپنی آنکھوں کو تکلیف نہ دیں لیکن عینک کا استعمال بھی نہ کریں تاہم بہت ناراضی نہ ہو کسی اچھے موقعہ سے فائدہ اٹھانے کا موقعہ ملے گا لیکن خود کو کسی خوش فہمی میں مبتلا نہ کریں۔ ذاتیں شکر گزار ہوں۔

برج حمل

(۲۰ مارچ تا ۱۸ اپریل)

آج کئی کام نمٹانے ہیں لہٰذا خود کو کسی مصیبت میں نہ ڈالیں' حالات کا سامنا کریں کسی الجھن کو دور کرنے کی پوری کوشش کریں' چالاکی اور ہوشیاری سے کام کریں۔

برج اسد

(۲۲ جولائی تا ۲۱ اگست)

دوسرے آپ کی توقع کے مطابق سلوک نہیں کریں گے پھر بھی آپ ان سے بخوبی نمٹ سکیں گے جہاں آپ کو ملنے جانا ہے اس بارے میں غلطی کا امکان ہے لہٰذا اس کا خیال رکھیں جن کو آپ پسند کرتے ہیں اس سے ملاقات کا امکان ہے

برج قوس

(۲۲ نومبر تا ۲۱ دسمبر)

چیزوں کا قریب سے مطالعہ کریں لیکن پہلی نظر میں مرعوب نہ ہوں کئی امور سے توجہ ہٹانے کی کوشش کریں' کسی بھی چیز کا استعمال کریں لیکن ان پر بہت زیادہ انحصار نہ کریں' مناسب رویہ اپنائیں۔

مشرق وسطیٰ سے شائع ہونے والا پہلا اردو اخبار
عرب ٹائمز
پیر ۲۸ ذی الحجہ ۱۴۰۹ھ - ۳۱ جولائی ۱۹۸۹ء - چیف ایڈیٹر احمد جاراللہ

سری لنکا کے وزیر خارجہ رنجن وجے رتنے کی وزیر خارجہ نرسمہا راؤ، وزیر دفاع کے سی پنت اور وزیر تجارت دنیش سنگھ سے بات چیت

فوجوں کے انخلاء پر نئی دہلی میں سری لنکا اور بھارتی رہنماؤں کے مذاکرات

بھارتی وزیر دفاع کے سی پنت (بائیں) سری لنکا کے وزیر خارجہ رانجن وجے رتنے کا استقبال کر رہے ہیں۔

بات چیت بھارتی فوجوں کی واپسی کے ٹائم ٹیبل پر مرکوز رہی

بھارتی فوجوں کی واپسی سری لنکا کی فتح ہے' صدر راناسنگھے پریماداسا

نئی دہلی۔ ۳۰ جولائی (یو پی) سری لنکا کے وزیر خارجہ رانجن وجے رتنے نے اپنے ملک سے بھارتی فوج کے انخلاء کے ٹائم ٹیبل پر مذاکرات کے دوسرے روز یہاں آج وزیر دفاع کے سی پنت سے بات چیت کی۔ بھارتی وزارت خارجہ کے ایک افسر نے بتایا کہ وجے رتنے اور پنت کے درمیان مذاکرات میں ان کے وفود نے بھی حصہ لیا جو ایک گھنٹہ تک جاری رہے تاہم افسر نے بات چیت کی کوئی تفصیل بیان نہیں کی۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ وجے رتنے نے بھارتی وزیر تجارت دنیش سنگھ سے بھی آج شام ملاقات کی اور پھر مذاکرات کا اگلا دور بھارتی وزیر خارجہ نرسمہا راؤ کے ساتھ ہوگا بتایا گیا ہے دنیش سنگھ سے بات چیت میں کولمبو میں بھارتی تاجران اور اداروں کو فراہم کی جانے والی سیکورٹی پر تبادلہ خیال ہوا جو سنہالی انتہا پسندوں کے حملوں کا نشانہ بن رہے ہیں جن کا مطالبہ ہے کہ سری لنکا سے بھارتی فوج کو واپس بلایا جائے۔ گزشتہ ہفتے سری لنکا میں سنہالی انتہا پسندوں نے متعدد بھارتی بینکوں اور ایک بھارتی سلکیتی فیکٹری کو نشانہ بنایا تھا۔ وجے رتنے ہفتہ کے

باقی دوسرے صفحہ پر

گیمبیا کے صدر کی اعلیٰحضرت امیر سے ملاقات

کویت۔ ۳۰ جولائی (کونا) گیمبیا کے صدر داؤدا جوارا نے آج صبح امیر کویت سے قصر بیان میں ملاقات کی جس میں دونوں رہنماؤں نے باہمی دلچسپیوں کے امور کے علاوہ مختلف شعبوں میں تعلقات میں مزید بہتری اور افریقی عرب تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کئے یہ ملاقات بھائی چارہ اور مفاہمت کے ماحول میں ہوئی۔

سری لنکا میں تشدد کے دوران ہلاک ہونے والوں کی تعداد ۱۵۵ ہو گئی

کرفیو میں وقفہ کے دوران سنہالی انتہا پسندوں نے سیکورٹی فورسز کے ایک رکن کو گولی مار دی

کولمبو۔ ۳۰ جولائی (یو پی) سری لنکا میں انتہا پسند سنہالیوں نے آج حملہ کر کے سیکورٹی فورسز کے ایک رکن کو ہلاک اور دیگر چار کو زخمی کر دیا یہ واقعہ اس دوران ہوا جب حکام نے کرفیو کے وقفہ میں عارضی نرمی کی جو بھارت کے خلاف تشدد کو پھوٹ نکلنے سے روکنے کے لئے نافذ کیا گیا تھا۔ گزشتہ دو دنوں میں خونریزی کے واقعات میں کم از کم ۱۵۵ افراد ہلاک ہو گئے تھے۔ کرفیو جمعہ کے دن نافذ کیا گیا تھا جس کا مقصد بھارتی فوج کی ملک میں موجودگی کے خلاف احتجاج پر قابو

باقی دوسرے صفحہ پر

عراق ایران مذاکرات شروع نہ ہوئے تو دوبارہ جنگ چھڑ سکتی ہے' شیخ زائد

ایران کا صدر منتخب ہونے پر متحدہ عرب امارات، قطر اور شام کی طرف سے علی اکبر ہاشمی رفسنجانی کو مبارکباد کے پیغامات

دوحہ۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) متحدہ عرب امارات کے صدر شیخ زاید [illegible] ہاشمی رفسنجانی کو [illegible] تہنیت کا پیغام ارسال [illegible] مبارکباد [illegible] امارات کے صدر [illegible] جنگ کے فریقین نے امن مذاکرات دوبارہ شروع نہ کئے تو جنگ کے دوبارہ چھڑنے کا خطرہ پیدا ہو جائے گا۔ خواہشمند علوی کی کانفرنس کی وساطت سے بھیجے گئے اپنے پیغام میں شیخ زاید نے متنبہ کیا کہ ایران اور عراق کے درمیان کسی مجموعی حل کی عدم موجودگی میں علاقہ پر جنگ کے بادل ابھی تک منڈلا رہے ہیں اور گزشتہ جنگ کا اثر ابھی تک محسوس کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ان حالات کے پیش نظر جنگ کے دونوں فریقوں پر لازم ہے کہ وہ فوری طور پر مذاکرات کی میز پر بیٹھیں اور

باقی دوسرے صفحہ پر

عبوری حکومت کے صدر صبغت اللہ مجددی اور حکمت یار کے خلاف نعرے، جمعیت اسلامی اور حزب اسلامی کے رہنماؤں میں الزامات کا تبادلہ، باہمی نفاق نجیب حکومت کے خلاف جدوجہد کے لیے زبردست دھچکا ثابت ہو سکتا ہے

افغان مجاہدین کے حریف رہنماؤں میں کشیدگی مزید شدت اختیار کر گئی

گلبدین حکمت یار کو عبوری حکومت سے نکال باہر کرنے کا مطالبہ

کشیدگی کا آغاز اس ماہ کے اوائل میں مجاہدین کے گروپوں میں تصادم سے ہوا

اسلام آباد۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) افغان مجاہدین کے حریف رہنماؤں نے کھلے بندوں ایک دوسرے کی مذمت کی ہے جس سے ایک گروپ کے ہاتھوں دوسرے کے ۳۰ ارکان کے حالیہ قتل عام پر کشیدگی کافی وسعت اختیار کر گئی ہے۔ برہان الدین ربانی کی جمعیت اسلامی مجاہدین پارٹی نے ہفتے کے روز مطالبہ کیا کہ افغان مجاہدین کی عبوری حکومت انتہا پسند رہنما گلبدین حکمت یار کو نکال باہر کرے جب تک کہ ان کی حزب اسلامی پارٹی قتل عام کے الزام سے بری ثابت نہیں ہو جاتی۔ حکمت یار افغان عبوری حکومت میں وزیر خارجہ کے عہدے پر ہیں دوسری طرف حزب اسلامی کا الزام ہے کہ جمعیت اسلامی صورت حال کو ٹھنڈا کرنے کی بجائے جوابی کارروائی کے لئے اپنے آدمیوں کو مسلح کر رہی ہے اور حزب نے مزید الزام لگایا کہ عبوری حکومت کے صدر صبغت اللہ مجددی جلتی پر تیل کا کام کر رہے ہیں۔ مجاہدین کے ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ حریف گروپوں میں یہ کشیدگی کابل کی سوویت نواز حکومت کے خلاف ان کی جدوجہد کے لئے زبردست دھچکا ثابت ہو سکتی ہے۔ حکمت یار اور ربانی افغان عبوری حکومت میں بالترتیب وزیر خارجہ اور وزیر تعمیر نو کی ذمہ داریاں رکھتے ہیں یہ پہلا موقع ہے کہ سات جماعتی افغان مجاہدین کے اتحاد میں شامل رہنماؤں نے ایک دوسرے کی کھلے عام مذمت کی ہو۔ افغان عبوری حکومت فروری میں افغانستان سے سوویت فوج کے انخلاء کے بعد قائم کی گئی تھی۔ افغان مجاہدین جنہیں مغرب کی

باقی دوسرے صفحہ پر

سوویت وزیر خارجہ آج تہران پہنچ رہے ہیں

نکوسیا۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) سوویت یونین کے وزیر خارجہ ایڈورڈ شیورڈناڈزے پیر کے روز ایران پہنچ رہے ہیں جہاں وہ ایرانی حکام سے بات چیت کریں گے مگر زیر بحث آنے والے امور کی تفصیلات ظاہر نہیں کی گئی ہیں ایران کے منتخب صدر علی اکبر ہاشمی رفسنجانی کے جون میں سوویت یونین کے دورہ کے بعد سوویت وزیر خارجہ کا دورہ ایران عمل میں آ رہا ہے۔ رفسنجانی نے سوویت یونین میں جو معاہدے کئے تھے ان میں ایران کی دفاعی صلاحیتوں کو بڑھانا اور ایران کی قدرتی گیس کو سوویت یونین درآمد کرنا شامل تھا شیورڈناڈزے نے گزشتہ فروری میں ایران کا دورہ کیا تھا۔

مغربی بیروت میں چند لبنانی بچے اپنے گھر کی مورچہ بندی کیلئے ریت کی بوریاں بھر رہے ہیں۔

عرب وزرائے خارجہ نے لبنان کے بحران پر تجاویز کو آخری شکل دیدی

رپورٹ عرب لیگ کمیٹی کو پیش کی جائے گی' امل ملیشیا کے رہنما کی صدر اسد سے ملاقات

رباط۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) لبنان میں متحارب فریقوں کے درمیان جنگ بندی کے لئے کوشاں عرب وزرائے خارجہ نے آج اپنے اجلاس میں تجاویز کو آخری شکل دیدی جبکہ بیروت میں حریف فوجوں کے توپخانوں پر خاموشی طاری رہی اور دمشق میں شام کے صدر حافظ الاسد نے لبنان کی بگڑتی ہوئی صورت حال پر لبنانی شیعہ مسلمان رہنما نبیہ بری سے بات چیت کی جو امل ملیشیا کے سربراہ بھی ہیں۔ مراکش کے دارالحکومت رباط میں الجزائر اور سعودی عرب کے وزرائے خارجہ نے میزبان ملک کے وزیر خارجہ عبداللطیف فلالی کے ساتھ اجلاس کیا جو انتہائی سیکورٹی انتظامات کے ساتھ فلالی کی رہائش گاہ پر منعقد ہوا۔ بات چیت کی کوئی تفصیل ظاہر نہیں کی گئی جو [illegible] اجلاس [illegible] رات دیر گئے تک جاری رہا تھا جس میں وزراء نے اپنے سربراہان مملکت کو پیش کرنے کے لئے رپورٹ مرتب کی۔ عرب لیگ کی حالیہ سربراہی کانفرنس میں سعودی عرب الجزائر اور مراکش کے سربراہان کو لبنان میں ۱۴ سالہ خانہ جنگی کے خاتمے کے لئے کوششوں کا کام سونپا گیا تھا۔ بیروت میں شامی اور عیسائی فورسز کے درمیان کئی دنوں کی گولہ باری کے بعد وقفہ کا فائدہ اٹھا کر مقامی لوگ سینکڑوں کی تعداد میں اپنے گھربار چھوڑ کر محفوظ مقامات کا رخ کر رہے ہیں جنہوں نے بتایا گیا کہ مارچ میں لڑائی کا تازہ ترین دور شروع ہونے کے بعد سے اب تک چھ لاکھ لوگ بیروت چھوڑ کر جا چکے ہیں۔ اس دوران گولہ باری میں پانچ سو سے زائد افراد ہلاک اور دو ہزار کے لگ بھگ زخمی ہو چکے ہیں۔ لبنانی دارالحکومت میں اب آبادی اڑھائی لاکھ کے قریب رہ گئی ہے جو پہلے پندرہ لاکھ کے لگ بھگ تھی۔ عرب سفارتی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ عرب وزراء کے مسودہ تجاویز میں شامل ہے کہ شامی فورسز عیسائی بندرگاہوں کی ناکہ بندی ختم کر دیں جس کے بدلے میں شامی فورسز کا مطالبہ ہے کہ اس اقدام کا مقصد جنرل عون کی عیسائی فورسز کو اسلحہ اور گولہ بارود کی سپلائی کو روکنا ہے۔ مصر میں وزیر خارجہ عصمت عبدالمجید نے لبنان کے متحارب فریقوں سے اپیل کی ہے کہ وہ لڑائی روک کر عرب لیگ کمیٹی سے تعاون کریں۔ دمشق میں صدر حافظ الاسد اور نبیہ بری کے درمیان امل ملیشیا کے اس مطالبے کے بعد ملاقات ہوئی جس میں شام سے کہا گیا تھا کہ امل ملیشیا کو درمیانے درجے کے ہتھیار دیئے جائیں تاکہ سوویت ساختہ فراگ - ۷ راکٹوں کا مقابلہ کیا جا سکے جو لبنانی عیسائی فورسز کے پاس موجود ہیں۔

[illegible]

برسبین۔ ۳۰ جولائی (یو پی) ایک آسٹریلوی ماں [illegible] اپنے بچے کو اپنے جگر کا ٹکڑا [illegible] آپریشن کی کامیابی [illegible] جگر کی تبدیلی کے لئے جگر کے حصہ کا استعمال [illegible] اپنے ستر ماہ کے بیٹے کو اپنے جگر کا ٹکڑا دینے کے بعد تیزی سے صحت یاب ہو رہی ہے۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ لڑکا پیدائش سے جگر کے عارضہ میں مبتلا تھا [illegible] جگر میں پیوند کاری کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے۔ [illegible] جہاں اس کی حالت اطمینان بخش ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ ماں کا جگر آپریشن کے چھ ہفتے بعد اپنی اصلی حالت پر آ جائے گا۔ آپریشن کے بعد ماں کو اسپتال سے رخصت کر دیا گیا تھا۔ جگر کا آپریشن ۱۸ گھنٹے میں مکمل ہوا [illegible] آسٹریلوی ڈاکٹروں نے جدید تکنیک سے [illegible] افراد کے جگر سے بچوں کے جگر میں پیوند کاری کرنے کا تجربہ کیا ہے۔

شیخ عبید کو رہا نہ کیا گیا تو امریکی یرغمالی کو قتل کر دیا جائے گا' حزب اللہ کی دھمکی

انتقامی حملہ کے پیش نظر اسرائیلی فوج کو تیار رہنے کا حکم

اسرائیل کی حامی ملیشیا کو خبردار کر دیا گیا' شیخ عبید کے اغواء پر لبنان میں عام ہڑتال کی اپیل

بیروت۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) لبنان میں ایک تنظیم جو دنیا کے مظلوموں' سے موسوم ہے نے دھمکی دی ہے کہ امریکی یرغمالی لیفٹیننٹ کرنل ولیم ہگنز کو پیر کی سہ پہر تین بجے پھانسی دیدی جائے گی اگر اس سے پہلے اسرائیل کے ہاتھوں اغوا شدہ مذہبی رہنما شیخ عبدالکریم عبید اور ان کے ساتھیوں کو رہا نہ کیا گیا۔ اس مضمون پر مشتمل بیان ایک بین الاقوامی خبر رساں ایجنسی کے دفتر کو بھجوایا گیا۔ اس تنظیم نے کرنل ہگنز کو اغوا کرنے کی ذمہ داری قبول کرنے کا اعلان کر رکھا ہے۔ دریں اثناء جنوبی لبنان میں اسرائیلی فوج اور اس کی حلیف جنوبی لبنان آرمی ملیشیا کو خبردار رہنے کا حکم دیدیا گیا ہے۔ جہاں مسلمانوں کی طرف سے اسرائیل کے ہاتھوں حزب اللہ کے رہنما شیخ عبید کے اغواء کے خلاف انتقامی کارروائی کا خدشہ شدت اختیار کرتا جا رہا ہے۔ لبنانی سیکورٹی ذرائع کے مطابق اسرائیلی فوج اور اس کی حلیف ملیشیا نے سیکورٹی زون میں بھی زبردست احتیاطی اقدامات کئے ہیں اور ان کی اعانت کے لئے اسرائیلی ٹینک اور بکتر بند گاڑیاں روانہ کر دی گئی ہیں۔ سرحدی علاقہ اور جنوبی

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برما کی اپوزیشن رہنما نے بھوک ہڑتال

بنکاک۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) برما کی اپوزیشن رہنما آنگ سان سوچی نے نظر بندی کے خلاف بھوک ہڑتال کر رکھی ہے جس کو آج آٹھ روز ہو گئے ہیں نیشنل لیگ برائے جمہوریت کی رہنما نے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ اسے اپنے ساتھیوں کے ہمراہ رنگون کی جیل میں منتقل کیا جائے۔

کراچی میں شدید بارشوں کے نتیجے میں سر عبداللہ ہارون روڈ پر ایک درخت اور بجلی کا کھمبا گر پڑا ہے۔

انسان ۶۰ ہزار سال پہلے بھی بول سکتا تھا

القدس ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) اسرائیل کے شمالی علاقے میں قدیم انسانی زبان کی ہڈی کی دریافت سے معلوم ہوا ہے کہ انسان ۶۰ ہزار سال قبل بھی بول سکتا تھا۔ تل ابیب یونیورسٹی کے ایک پروفیسر نے بتایا کہ اس سے قبل زبان کی جو ہڈی دریافت ہوئی تھی وہ دس ہزار سال پرانی تھی۔ یہ ہڈی انسان کے قوت گویائی میں استعمال ہوتی تھی۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ موجودہ ہڈی کارمل پہاڑ پر واقع ایک غار میں انسانی کھوپڑی سے ملی ہے جو کہ سابقہ ہڈی کے مقابلہ میں چھ گنا قدیم ہے تاہم اس بات کا شبہ کیا جاتا تھا کہ آج کے انسانوں کی طرح قدیم زمانے کا انسان بولنے کی صلاحیت نہیں رکھتا تھا لیکن زبان کی ہڈی کے ملنے پر اندازہ ہوتا ہے کہ [illegible] کی تہذیب کے انسان میں بولنے کی صلاحیت موجود تھی۔ ہارورڈ اور بوردو کی یونیورسٹیوں کے پروفیسروں نے کھدائی کے دوران انسانی کھوپڑیوں کے کچھ ٹکڑے' جانوروں کی ہڈیاں اور پتھروں کے اوزار دریافت کئے ہیں۔

کمبوڈیا میں قیام امن پر پیرس میں عالمی کانفرنس شروع ہو گئی

سوویت وزیر خارجہ کے فرانسیسی جاپانی چینی رہنماؤں سے مذاکرات' جیمز بیکر کی سہانوک سے ملاقات

پیرس۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) کمبوڈیا پر آج ایک غیر معمولی عالمی کانفرنس فرانسیسی دارالحکومت میں ہو رہی ہے جس کا مقصد اس ملک میں بحالی امن کی کوششوں کو آگے بڑھانا ہے جو تاریخ کے خونریز ترین انقلابوں' کئی عشروں کی خانہ جنگی اور غیر ملکی مداخلت کا نشانہ رہ چکا ہے۔ لیکن آج کانفرنس کے انعقاد سے چند گھنٹے پہلے تک کمبوڈیا کے چھاپہ مار گروپوں کے درمیان پائے جانے والے تعطل میں پیش رفت کے آثار نہیں دکھائی دیتے تھے' جنہیں امریکہ' چین اور تھائی لینڈ کی حمایت حاصل ہے۔ نوم پنہ حکومت کی حمایت سوویت یونین اور ویت نام کر رہے ہیں۔ ۱۹ ملکی عالمی کانفرنس کلیبر سنٹر میں ہو رہی ہے جہاں ۱۹۷۰ء کی دہائی کے اوائل میں ویت نام پر امن مذاکرات ہوئے تھے جو پروان نہ چڑھ سکے۔ کانفرنس کے آغاز سے چند گھنٹے قبل وزرائے خارجہ نے آخری مرحلے کے صلاح مشورے کئے۔ سوویت وزیر خارجہ ایڈورڈ شیوارڈناڈزے نے فرانسیسی وزیر خارجہ رولینڈ ڈوماس' جاپانی وزیر خارجہ ہیروشی متسوزوکا اور چینی وزیر خارجہ کیان چی چن سے بات چیت کی۔ امریکی وزیر خارجہ جیمز بیکر شہزادہ سہانوک سے ملے جو کمیونسٹ چھاپہ ماروں سمیت کمبوڈیا کے مزاحمتی اتحاد کے سربراہ ہیں۔ جیمز بیکر نے طاقتور

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سوڈان کی فوجی عدالت سے کالے دھن کے تاجروں کو سزائیں

خرطوم۔ ۳۰ جولائی (اپ) سوڈان کی ایک ماہ پرانی فوجی حکومت کے تحت قائم ایک فوجی عدالت نے غیر ملکی کرنسیوں کی سیاہ بازاری میں ملوث دو افراد کو دس اور بیس سال کی سزا سناتے ہوئے ہزاروں ڈالر کی ضبطی کا حکم دیا۔ حکومت نے سیاسی اور اقتصادی مجرموں کی سزا کے لئے تین فوجی عدالتیں قائم کی ہیں جن کے ذمہ خاص طور پر سیاستدانوں یا سابق حکومت کے حکام کو بدعنوانیوں پر سزا دینا ہے۔ ایک فوجی عدالت کے جج کرنل محمد بشیر سلیمان نے دو افراد کو سزا دیتے ہوئے تیسرے شخص کو رہا کر دیا جبکہ ایک کسٹم افسر کو اسی جرم پر ایک مخصوص عدالت کے حوالے

سوویت ہیلی کاپٹر مجاہدین کو دیئے جائیں منحرف افغان پائلٹوں کا پاکستان سے مطالبہ

پشاور ۳۰ جولائی (اپ) افغان ائرفورس کے چار پائلٹ جو کمیونسٹ مداخلت کے خلاف سوویت ساخت کے دو ہیلی کاپٹروں کے ذریعے افغانستان چھوڑ کر پاکستان آ گئے تھے نے حکومت پاکستان سے ان ہیلی کاپٹروں کو افغان مجاہدین کے حوالے کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔ بتایا گیا ہے کہ یہ پائلٹ تین جولائی کو دو ہیلی کاپٹروں کے ذریعے پاکستان کے جنوبی شہر کوئٹہ پہنچے تھے جو کہ افغان سرحد کے مشرق میں واقع ہے۔ پاکستان کی وزارت دفاع نے ان ہیلی کاپٹروں پر قبضہ کر لیا تھا۔ چاروں منحرف افغان پائلٹوں نے یہاں ایک پریس کانفرنس میں اس خواہش کا اظہار کیا کہ پاکستان کو چاہئے کہ وہ ان ہیلی کاپٹروں کو افغانستان کے حوالے کرنے کے بجائے انہیں افغان مجاہدین کے حوالے کرے جو نجیب حکومت کا تختہ الٹنے کے لئے جدوجہد کر رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان وزارت دفاع کے ایک ترجمان نے کہا کہ انہیں ان ہیلی کاپٹروں کو افغان مجاہدین کی عبوری حکومت کے حوالے کرنے کی کوئی درخواست موصول نہیں ہوئی ہے

سعودی عرب کی سوڈان کو امداد

نکوسیا۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) سوڈان کی نئی فوجی حکومت کی جانب سے درخواست کے بعد سعودی عرب قحط سے نمٹنے کے لئے فوری طور پر مالی امداد دے گا۔ ریاض میں سرکاری ریڈیو نے اس مالی امداد کی تفصیلات ظاہر نہیں کیں لیکن بتایا گیا ہے کہ سوڈان کے فوجی رہنما جنرل عمر حسن البشیر نے جدہ میں شاہ فہد سے ملاقات کے دوران اناج اور تیل کی فراہمی کی درخواست کی تھی۔

جیل سے رہائی پانے والے سابق افغان وزیر پھر حکومت میں

کابل۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) افغان صدر نجیب اللہ نے ایک سابق وزیر کو پھر سے حکومت میں شامل کر لیا ہے جسے آٹھ سال جیل میں گزارنے کے بعد حال ہی میں رہائی ملی تھی۔ خیال محمد کتوازی کو وزیر خارجہ عبدالوکیل کا نائب مشیر مقرر کیا گیا ہے لیکن سفارتی ذرائع کا خیال ہے کہ انہیں کسی سفارت دی جائے گی۔ ان کی تقرری حکمران پارٹی میں مخالفین کی بحالی کے سلسلہ میں جاری صدر نجیب اللہ کی کوششوں کا حصہ بیان کی جاتی ہے۔ تاکہ سربراہ کی حیثیت سے ان کی اپنی پوزیشن مستحکم ہو سکے۔

امریکہ پر افغانستان کے انتہا پسند عناصر کی پشت پناہی کرنے کا الزام

سوویت وزیر خارجہ ایڈورڈ شیورڈناڈزے کے امریکی وزیر خارجہ جیمز بیکر سے پیرس میں مذاکرات

پیرس ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) سوویت وزیر خارجہ ایڈورڈ شیورڈناڈزے نے افغانستان میں امریکہ کے ملوث ہونے کو ہدف تنقید بناتے ہوئے امریکی وزیر خارجہ جیمز بیکر پر واضح کیا کہ ان کی حکومت وہاں انتہا پسند عناصر کی حوصلہ افزائی کر رہی ہے۔ سوویت ترجمان [illegible] نے نامہ نگاروں کو بتایا کہ سوویت اور امریکی وزرائے خارجہ کی ملاقات میں جو پیرس میں سوویت سفیر کی رہائش گاہ پر تین گھنٹے تک جاری رہی' شیورڈناڈزے نے افغانستان میں امریکہ کے کردار پر عدم

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مقبوضہ عرب علاقوں میں شناختی کارڈ کی پابندی کے خلاف مظاہرے

اسرائیلی فوج کی فائرنگ سے ایک فلسطینی شہید' ہلاک ہونے والوں کی تعداد ۶۷۷ ہو گئی

القدس۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) مقبوضہ مغربی کنارے میں اسرائیلی فوج نے ایک فلسطینی کو فائرنگ کر کے ہلاک کر دیا جبکہ مقبوضہ علاقہ بھر میں اسرائیلی شناختی کارڈ پاس رکھنے کی سرکاری پابندی کے خلاف احتجاجی مظاہرے کئے گئے۔ القدس میں عرب دشمن کچھ' تحریک کے ترجمان نے' جس کے سربراہ ایک اسرائیلی مذہبی رہنما میئر کاہنے ہیں' کہا کہ پولیس نے آج اس کے دفتر پر چھاپہ مار کر متعدد انتہا پسندوں کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ بتایا گیا کہ اسرائیلی فوج نے گزشتہ رات کی تاریکی میں رام اللہ کے قریب واقع گاؤں راس کار کامیں چڑھائی کی اور ۲۷ سالہ ایاز عبداللہ نوفل کو گولی مار کر ہلاک کر دیا جن کے اہل خانہ کے ساتھ فوجیوں کا تصادم ہوا تھا۔

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پاکستان میں منشیات کی اسمگلنگ میں کال گرلز کے استعمال کا انکشاف

خوبرو لڑکیاں غیر ملکی اسمگلروں کا دل بہلاتی ہیں

لاہور۔ ۳۰ جولائی (عرب ٹائمز رپورٹ) پاکستان میں ان دنوں کال گرلز کا دھندا عروج پر ہے اور اس میں بڑی بڑی شخصیتوں کا ہاتھ ہے جن میں سرکاری عہدیدار اور بدنام زمانہ منشیات کے اسمگلر شامل ہیں اس بات کا انکشاف ایک کال گرل وجاہت نازلی نے کیا' اس نے بتایا کہ ان کال گرلز کو منشیات کے

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کوریا' بنگلہ دیش اور ویت نام میں طوفانی بارشوں سے مزید تباہی' سینکڑوں افراد ہلاک و زخمی

بنگلہ دیش کے تمام دریاؤں میں طغیانی' طوفان کا خطرہ

جنوبی کوریا اور ویت نام میں لاکھوں افراد بے گھر' ہزاروں مکان زمین بوس ہو گئے

سیول ۳۰ جولائی (ایجنسیز) ایشیا کے متعدد ملکوں میں مون سون کی طوفانی بارشوں سے تباہ کاریوں کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔ جنوبی کوریا' چین' ویت نام' بنگلہ دیش' بھارت اور پاکستان میں بارشوں اور سیلاب سے ہلاک ہونے والوں کی تعداد میں اضافہ ہوتا جا رہا ہے۔ جنوبی کوریا میں بارشوں سے اب تک ۱۰۹ افراد ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں۔ گزشتہ روز مزید سترہ افراد مکان گرنے سے جاں بحق ہو گئے۔ پوسان کی بندرگاہ میں طوفانی ہواؤں سے چار افراد لاپتہ ہو گئے۔ امدادی کاموں میں مصروف ایجنسیوں نے بتایا کہ ملک کے جنوبی حصہ میں شدید بارشوں سے پیدا ہونے والے طوفان کے باعث ۹۲ افراد ہلاک اور ۳۸ لاپتہ ہیں جبکہ ۲۰ ہزار سے زائد لوگ بے گھر ہو گئے ہیں۔ سیلاب سے دو لاکھ ۲۰ ہزار ایکڑ اراضی پر کھڑی فصلیں تباہ ہو گئی ہیں۔ املاک کو پہنچنے والے نقصان کا اندازہ ۲۰۰ ملین ڈالر لگایا گیا ہے۔ زمین دھنسنے سے پانی اور بجلی کی لائنوں کو نقصان پہنچا ہے۔ متعدد سڑکیں' ریلوے لائنیں اور درخت اکھڑ گئے ہیں۔ امدادی کاموں کیلئے فوج طلب کر لی گئی ہے اور فوجی ہیلی کاپٹر متاثرہ افراد کو محفوظ مقامات پر پہنچا رہے ہیں جنوبی علاقوں کے دریاؤں میں طغیانی کے باعث نشیبی بستیاں زیر آب آ گئی ہیں۔ بنگلہ دیش میں طوفانی بارشوں سے ہلاک ہونے والوں کی تعداد سو سے تجاوز کر گئی ہے۔ گزشتہ روز براتیوں سے بھری ہوئی ایک کشتی دریا کی طوفانی لہروں کی نذر ہو گئی جس سے تیس افراد ڈوب گئے۔ گزشتہ ۴۸ گھنٹوں میں ۳۰ سنٹی میٹر بارش ریکارڈ کی جا چکی ہے جس سے نشیبی علاقوں کے ہزاروں لوگ محفوظ مقامات کی جانب چلے گئے ہیں۔ دریائے میگنا اور تیستا میں طغیانی سے چالیس افراد ڈوب کر ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں۔ شمالی بنگلہ دیش

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شمال مشرقی چین میں بارش سے تباہی

پیکنگ۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) سرکاری ذرائع کے مطابق شمال مشرقی چین میں طوفانی بارش' زمین کھسکنے اور سیلاب کے واقعات میں تقریباً ۱۸۰ افراد ہلاک ہو گئے ہیں قومی ریڈیو نے اپنے نشریہ میں بتایا کہ شمالی کوریا سے ملحق جیلین صوبہ میں دو روز کی موسلادھار بارش میں ۳۳ افراد ہلاک اور بائیس لاپتہ ہو گئے اس بارش میں وسیع و عریض زیر کاشت علاقے اور ہزاروں مکانات کو بھی نقصان پہنچا ہے۔

انگلینڈ ٹیسٹ ہار جائے گا' گاور کی برطرفی کا مطالبہ

ڈیوڈ گاور کی کپتانی پر برطانوی اخبارات کی تنقید

مانچسٹر۔ ۳۰ جولائی (رائٹر) انگلینڈ کی کرکٹ ٹیم کے کپتان ڈیوڈ گاور ان دنوں زیر عتاب ہیں اور برطانوی اخبارات ان کی قائدانہ صلاحیتوں پر بھرپور حملے کر رہے ہیں۔ چوتھے کرکٹ ٹیسٹ میں انگلینڈ کو ایک بار پھر آسٹریلیا کے مقابلہ میں شکست کا سامنا ہے۔ انگلینڈ اگر یہ ٹیسٹ بھی ہار گیا تو آسٹریلیا جیت جائے گا۔ چھ ٹیسٹ میچوں کی حالیہ سیریز میں آسٹریلیا تین ٹیسٹ جیت چکا ہے۔ گاور کی کپتانی پر برطانوی اخبارات میں سوال اٹھائے جا رہے ہیں اور

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کویت ائرویز کو ۱۵ ملین دینار کا منافع

کویت ۳۰ جولائی (کونا) کویت ائرویز کارپوریشن کو امسال ۱۵٫۶ ملین دینار کا ریکارڈ منافع ہوا ہے جبکہ گزشتہ سال ۲٫۳ ملین کا منافع ہوا تھا۔ کویت ائرویز کارپوریشن کے بورڈ چیئرمین احمد حماد المشاری نے مقامی اخبار القبس کو ایک انٹرویو میں بتایا کہ کویت ائرویز کو یہ غیر معمولی منافع آپریٹنگ ریونیو سے حاصل ہوا ہے جو کہ گزشتہ سال تک خسارہ میں تھا۔ المشاری نے بتایا کہ کویت ائرویز آئندہ چار برسوں میں پانچ طیاروں کو تبدیل کرنے کیلئے ایک فنڈ قائم کرنے پر وزیر مالیات جاسم الخرافی کی منظوری حاصل کرنے کی کوشش کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ کویت ائرویز حکومت کے بجٹ پر کوئی بوجھ ڈالے بغیر یا تجارتی قرض حاصل کئے بغیر اپنے طور پر نئے طیاروں کو خریدنے کی اہلیت رکھتی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ کے اے سی کا ۴۴ فیصد عملہ کویتی افراد پر مشتمل ہے جبکہ تمام پائلٹ بھی کویتی ہیں۔

کراچی میں مقیم ایرانی باشندے صدارتی انتخاب کیلئے ووٹ ڈال رہے ہیں۔

چین سے منحرفین کا فرار روکنے کیلئے غیر ملکی پروازوں کی سخت چیکنگ

پیکنگ۔ ۳۰ جولائی (یو پی) چین کے سیکورٹی حکام نے حالیہ جمہوریت نواز تحریک میں سرگرم حصہ لینے والے منحرفین کا ملک سے فرار روکنے کے لئے سخت حفاظتی اقدامات کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جس کے تحت ملک سے باہر جانے والی غیر ملکی پروازوں کی سخت جانچ پڑتال کی جا رہی ہے۔ معلوم ہوا ہے کہ منحرفین کی کثیر تعداد غیر ملکی طیاروں کے ذریعے ملک سے فرار ہونے میں کامیاب ہو چکی ہے۔ سیکورٹی چیکنگ سخت ہونے کی وجہ سے غیر ملکی پروازوں میں طویل تاخیر سے غیر ملکی تاجروں کو سخت پریشانی کا سامنا کرنا پڑ رہا ہے اور اس ضمن میں شکایات بھی موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ واضح رہے کہ جون میں جمہوریت نواز احتجاجی تحریک کے خلاف فوجی کارروائی کے بعد پولیس کو مطلوب ہزاروں طالب علم رہنما اور دانشور برطانوی کالونی ہانگ کانگ اور پرتگالی کالونی میکاؤ فرار ہو گئے تھے۔ باخبر ذرائع نے بتایا کہ غیر ملکی پروازوں کی سخت تلاشی کے خلاف غیر ملکی ائرلائنز نے چینی حکام سے شکایات کی ہیں کیونکہ اس سے مسافروں میں خوف و ہراس اور پروازوں میں غیر معمولی تاخیر ہو رہی ہے۔ طیاروں اور مسافروں کی چیکنگ کا کام مسلح پیرا ملٹری پولیس کرتی ہے۔ ایک ائرلائن کے حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ عموماً سیکورٹی چیکنگ خود ہوائی کمپنیوں کی درخواست پر کی جاتی ہے مگر اکثر ایسا ہوتا ہے کہ پرواز سے چند منٹ قبل اچانک سیکورٹی حکام چیکنگ کے لئے آ جاتے ہیں اور طیارے کے کنٹینروں کی تلاشی شروع کر دی جاتی ہے جس میں کئی کئی گھنٹے لگ جاتے ہیں۔

یونانی قبرصی خواتین کو سزا دینے پر مظاہرہ

نکوسیا ۳۰ جولائی (اپ) قبرص کے ترک علاقے میں یونانی قبرصی مظاہرین جن میں خواتین کی اکثریت تھی کو جیل بھیجنے کے خلاف مظاہرے شروع ہو گئے ہیں بتایا گیا ہے کہ ان خواتین نے [illegible] پر ہلہ بول دیا تھا۔ ترک علاقے میں ڈسٹرکٹ کورٹ نے ۱۰۳ خواتین کو تین روزہ قید اور سو ڈالر جرمانہ کی سزا دی تھی جن خواتین کو ضمانت پر رہا کر دیا گیا تھا۔

ویڈیو فلم بنانے کی سزا

اٹلانٹا ۳۰ جولائی (اپ) امریکی ایکٹر روب لوی کو حکم سزائے قید سے بچنے کے لئے لاس اینجلس کے اسکولوں میں معذور اور اپاہجوں کی دو سال تک خدمت کرنا ہوگی۔ لوی پر گزشتہ سال ڈیموکریٹک نیشنل کنونشن کے اجلاس کے موقع پر ایک ہوٹل کے کمرہ میں مس جین پارسنس اور اس کی سہیلی کے درمیان جنسی عمل کی خفیہ ویڈیو فلم بنانے کا الزام عائد کیا گیا ہے جس کی سزا بیس سال جیل کی سزا اور ایک لاکھ ڈالر جرمانہ ہے۔ جج سلیٹن نے کہا کہ لوی کی سزا کے پروگرام کو چند ہفتوں میں طے کر لیا جائے گا تاہم انہوں نے مقدمہ سے متعلق دیگر تفصیلات کا انکشاف نہیں کیا۔ روب لوی نے 'لاسٹ نائٹ' 'سینٹ ایلموز فائر' اور 'آکسفورڈ بلوز' نامی فلموں میں کام کر کے شہرت حاصل کی تھی۔

ہاشمی رفسنجانی نے صدارتی انتخاب میں ۹۴٫۵ فیصد ووٹ حاصل کئے

عباس شیبانی کو صرف ۳٫۸ فیصد ووٹ ملے' رائے دہی کا تناسب ۷۰ فیصد رہا

تہران۔ ۳۰ جولائی (اپ) ایرانی پارلیمنٹ کے اسپیکر ہاشمی رفسنجانی نے حالیہ صدارتی انتخاب میں ۹۴٫۵ فیصد ووٹ حاصل کر لئے ہیں اور انہیں آئینی ترامیم کے تحت غیر معمولی اختیارات حاصل ہوں گے جن کی منظوری عوام نے صدارتی انتخاب کے ساتھ ریفرنڈم میں دی۔ اس کا اعلان اتوار کو صدارتی انتخاب کے حتمی نتائج کی روشنی میں کیا گیا۔ وزیر داخلہ علی اکبر محتشمی نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا کہ ریفرنڈم میں جو صدارتی انتخاب کے ساتھ ہی ہوا تھا' ۹۷٫۵ فیصد رائے دہندگان نے آئینی ترامیم کی منظوری دی۔ محتشمی نے بتایا کہ ۵۴ سالہ اسپیکر پارلیمنٹ رفسنجانی نے بطور صدارتی امیدوار کل ایک کروڑ پچپن لاکھ [illegible] ووٹ حاصل کئے جبکہ پولنگ میں کل ایک کروڑ [illegible] ووٹ دیئے گئے۔ ان کے واحد مقابل سابق وزیر زراعت عباس شیبانی کو ۳٫۸ فیصد یعنی چھ لاکھ [illegible] ووٹ ملے۔ ریفرنڈم میں جو آئینی ترامیم پر ہوا [illegible] ووٹ دہندگان نے اثبات میں ووٹ

باقی دوسرے صفحہ پر

نئے اسلامی سال کے موقعہ پر بدھ اور جمعرات کو سرکاری تعطیل

کویت۔ ۳۰ جولائی (کونا) کویت کابینہ نے اپنے ایک اجلاس میں بدھ' جمعرات' بالترتیب دو اور تین اگست کو نئے اسلامی سال کے موقعہ پر سرکاری تعطیل کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ کابینہ کا اجلاس قائم مقام وزیر اعظم اور وزیر خارجہ [illegible] کی زیر صدارت ہوا جس کے بعد وزیر منصوبہ بندی [illegible] ڈاکٹر عبدالرحمان العوضی [illegible] امیر کویت کے عوام کی جانب سے [illegible] مسلمان قوم خوشحالی' مسرت [illegible]

[illegible] برہنہ افراد کا سالانہ اجتماع

[illegible] ۳۰ جولائی (یو پی) تقریباً [illegible] ہزار برہنہ [illegible] برہنہ افراد [illegible] ۱۹۸۵ء [illegible]

Cuban jumps 2.44m to set world high jump record

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, July 30, (AP): Cuba's Javier Sotomayor became the first person to high jump 8 feet (2.44 metres), setting a world record last night at the Caribbean Championships.

"It is a fantastic feat because I am the first man in jumping the eight feet, and that is fabulous," said Sotomayor, 21.

Sotomayor set the previous mark of 7-11 1-2 (2.426 metres) in 1988 in Salamanca, Spain. At that time, the Cuban's jump broke the previous outdoor world record of 7-11 (2.413 metres) set by Patrick Sjoeberg of Sweden in Stockholm on June 6, 1987.

Sotomayor also holds the indoor mark at 7-11 1-2 (2.426 metres).

He made the historic jump in his second try. In his first attempt, Sotomayor tried at 8-0 feet but he touched the beam with his left leg.

Sotomayor did not have a shot at a gold medal at the 1988 summer Olympics because Cuba boycotted the Games.

The 6-foot-4 (1.92-metre) Cuban said he was not disappointed about not being able to compete in the Seoul Olympics and is looking forward to 1992 in Barcelona, Spain.

Reaching the 8-foot barrier is a significant mark in track and field.

In the men's high jump, the record metrically is now 2.44, exactly 8 feet, but for Europeans, the more significant height would be 2.45 (8 feet and 1-2 inch), since they recognise increases of five centimetres.

"Every time you go up five centimetres, it's important," said Olympian Jimmy Howard, the former American record-holder. "When someone clears 2.50 (8 feet 2 1-2 inches), it will be phenomenal.

In the pole vault, the 20-foot (6.09 metre) barrier is in reach but has not been cracked. The record-holder is Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union at 19 feet and 10 1-2 inches (5.957 meters).

Celtics star sidelined

Bird injured

Larry Bird: breaks bone in back

WALTHAM, Massachusetts, July 30, (AP): Larry Bird, star player of the frequent national champion Boston Celtics basketball team broke a bone in his back last night and was expected to be sidelined for four to six weeks.

Bird, who missed almost all of last season with heel problems, was hurt in summer camp training when he collided with Kelvin Upshaw and fell to the floor.

Bird, the three-time NBA Most Valuable Player, missed all but six games last season. Without him, the Celtics didn't clinch a play off berth until the final day of the regular season, then were swept in three games by Detroit in the opening round.

X-rays showed that Bird had suffered a fracture of the traverse process in his lower back, Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss said, adding that treatment would involve rest, massage, medication, electrical stimulation and application of ice.

Twiss said no disc or neurological problems were found.

The Celtics camp runs through Tuesday night, but Twiss said Bird would return home to Indiana.

After being hurt, Bird answered, "sore," when asked how he felt. He got into a car and was driven away by Dr Arnold Scheller, the Celtics' team physician.

Mariners outplay Athletics

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP): The Oakland Athletics tied a club record yesterday, walking 13 Seattle players and handing the Mariners at 14-6 victory.

"That's not our style," said Oakland manager Tony La Russa, who called it the worst pitching performance by his team this season. The last time Oakland walked 13 was on Sept 28, 1974, against the Chicago White Sox.

A score of batter walked to first base in the wide-open game, which featured just about everything — including a record five stolen bases by Oakland's Rickey Henderson.

Randy Johnson, 5-3, pitched six-plus innings and allowed four hits for the victory. Three of the A's six runs scored on infield errors and were unearned, but Johnson walked seven batters — including Henderson four times. Bill Swift pitched the final three innings for his first Major-League save.

Red sox 5, Indians 0

Mike Smithson pitched a two-hitter over eight innings for his first victory in a month and Nick Esasky hit a three-run homer as the Boston Red Sox defeated the Cleveland Indians 5-0.

Smithson, 5-9, was 0-4 in his previous six appearances and hadn't won since June 24. The 34-year-old right-hander walked three and struck out two in eight innings. Rob Murphy pitched the ninth.

Royals 5, Orioles 0

Luis Aquino shut out Baltimore on three singles and hot-hitting Willie Wilson drove in every run as Kansas City fashioned a 5-0 victory to hand the slumping American League East leaders their ninth loss in 10 games.

Wilson, batting .461 with 11 RBIs in his last six games, hit a two-run single in the second inning and added a two-run double in the fourth. In the fifth he singled into centre field to score Gary Thurman.

Tigers 3, Twins 2

Gary Pettis went 4-for-5, including a game-winning hit in the 10th inning, as the Detroit Tigers defeated the Minnesota Twins 3-2.

Doug Strange led off the Tiger 10th with a single off loser Gary Wayne, 3-2. Mike Brumley followed with a sacrifice bunt to put Strange in scoring position for Pettis.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 2

Don Mattingly got three hits and drove in three runs and Chuck Cary got his first Major-League victory since 1987 as the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-2.

The Yankees won for just the second time in 11 games. Roberto Kelly and Bob Geren each got three of New York's season-high 17 hits.

Results

American League

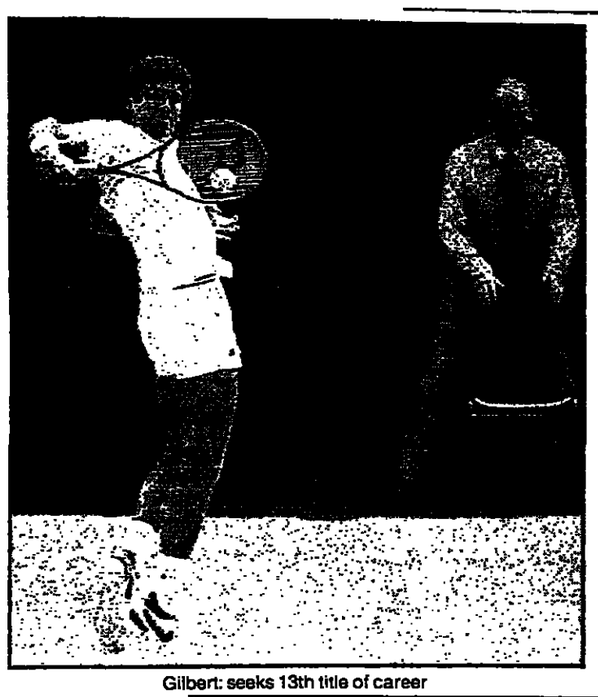
Boston	5	Cleveland	0
Seattle	14	Oakland	6
New York	7	Toronto	2
Detroit	3	Minnesota	2
Milwaukee	8	Texas	2
California	2	Chicago	1

National League

Chicago	10	New York	3
Houston	8	San Francisco	1
Philadelphia	6	Pittsburgh	2
Cincinnati	4	Atlanta	1
Montreal	2	St Louis	0
San Diego	9	Los Angeles	4

Mayotte sails past Witsken

Gilbert overcomes Reneberg



Gilbert: seeks 13th title of career

WASHINGTON, July 30, (UPI): Top seed Tim Mayotte used a powerful serve-and-volley attack to supress Todd Witsken yesterday, setting up a meeting with Brad Gilbert in the final of the Sovran Bank Classic.

Mayotte, ranked 11th in the world, allowed only 10 points off his serve, including just four in the second set, and blasted Witsken, the tournament's 11th seed, 6-3, 6-2, in 71 minutes to reach the last match of the $297,500 Grand Prix event.

Gilbert, the tournament's second seed and the world's No. 12 player, beat unseeded Richey Reneberg, ranked 11th, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, in a semifinal lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes. Gilbert rallied from 0-2 in the final set, winning 12 of 13 points during one stretch and gaining the decisive break in a 20-point marathon in the sixth game of the set.

Mayotte has won six of seven career matches against Gilbert, including a three-set quarterfinal victory in Philadelphia earlier this year.

Gilbert, who won both his matches during he US Davis Cup team's loss to West Germany last weekend in Munich, is seeking his second tournament championship of the year — he won in Memphis in February — and 13th of his career.

If he wins and collects the $50,575 first-place check, Gilbert would pass the $2 million mark in career earnings. Gilbert was also a finalist here in 1987, losing to Ivan Lendl.

Mayotte, who has won 11 career tournaments and four in 1988 but is still seeking his first tournament title of 1989, overpowered Witsken with an unyielding serve, producing five aces and keeping his foe off balance throughout the match.

"I played pretty well and I think todd was a little off his game, as well," Mayotte said. "Those two factors contributed to an easier match than I expected."

Mayotte held serve throughout the match and never faced a break point. He broke Witsken at 30 in the sixth game of the first set, winning the game when Witsken sent a backhander into the net, and served out the set three games later.

Witsken, ranked 67th, survived two break points in the first game of the second set before Mayotte earned the break on another netted Witsken backhander, then Mayotte broke Witsken again in the fifth game. Mayotte put an end to the match in the eighth game with a service winner.

"I never was really able to claw my way into the match," said Witsken, making his second appearance in the final this year, having lost to Boris Becker in a final earlier this year in Philadelphia.

Gilbert lost on his serve in the first game of the final set, then failed to capitalize on two break points in the next game. But he broke Reneberg at love in the fourth game and needed three break points before gaining the break in the sixth game.

Reneberg, who has never reached the final of a Grand Prix event, fought off seven set points before holding serve in the ninth game of the first set, but Gilbert, who reaped three breaks in the set, took the set with two aces in the next game.

The pair traded service breaks early in the next set, then Reneberg broke Gilbert in the eighth game at 30 and served out the set in the next game.

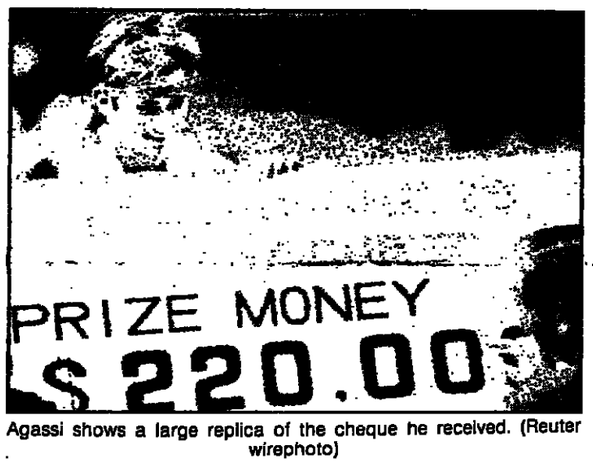
Agassi surprises Lendl for title

YOKOHAMA, Japan, July 30, (UPI): American teenager Andre Agassi, taking advantage of Ivan Lendl's inconsistent service return, upset the Czechoslovak world No. 1 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 in today's final of the $500,000 All Nippon Airways Cup exhibition tennis tournament.

Agassi, 19, the world No. 4, broke Lendl's service only once — in the seventh game of the second set and then held off break point twice in the final game to win the match.

"Usually when I play Ivan, it's a tough match," said Agassi, "but he usually has 17 aces and I have two, so I think serving was the difference in today's match."

Agassi again lost the battle for aces with nine to Lendl's 13, but he rocketed three of them in the ninth game of the first set, including two in a row to go up 40-0. Lendl, 29, came back to deuce but Agassi held serve with an ace and a forehand winner from the baseline to take a 5-4 lead.



Agassi shows a large replica of the cheque he received. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lendl, whose service kept Agassi off balance throughout the first set, used his powerful delivery to take a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker, but won only one of the next three points as Agassi tied the score 6-6 when Lendl netted a backhand.

Agassi polished off the set with a service winner and a backhand pass.

"I was pleased with the way I played today because I kept getting better and better," Lendl said. "I couldn't keep up with Andre in the first set from the backcourt, but I played better as the match went on."

The fast artificial surface was more to Agassi's liking, who played on a similar surface in an exhibition with Wimbledon champion Boris Becker in West Germany before coming to Japan.

Agassi served well in the second set and Lendl's return of service troubles continued. Lendl said he normally would have been disappointed with his service return.

"It's so hard to return here because the court is so quick," the world No.1 said. "Normally I would say that I was not pleased returning serve but on this court it was the best that I could do."

"There's no doubt that Lendl raises his level of play in the Grand Slams," Agassi said.

Agassi pocketed $220,000 of the total $500,000 purse while Lendl received $140,000.

Agassi and Chang top attractions

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont, July 30, (AP): Defending champion Andre Agassi, No. 6 in the world, and French Open winner Michael Chang, No. 7, are the biggest attractions in the field of 64 entered in the Volvo international tennis tournament, which opens tomorrow.

Organisers had a chance at a few more names. John McEnroe, nursing a shoulder strain, approached the tournament Wednesday about entering as a wild card.

Boris Becker, the new Wimbledon champion, withdrew earlier because of a leg muscle strain.

Agassi could use a victory about now, considering his disappointing play this year. He hasn't won a tournament since last August.

The Volvo is one of his favourites. As a 16-year-old qualifier in 1986, he made it all the way to the quarterfinals. He advanced to the semis in 1987 and last year, with No. 1 Ivan Lendl knocked out early, Agassi took the title in two sets over Paul Annacone.

Chang played in the Vermont tourney last year at the age of 16, and couldn't get past Annacone in the second round.

But he returns with more experience, as well as the distinction of being the youngest player to ever win the French Open — and the first US player to take the title in 34 years.

Schroeder beats Hansen

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, July 30, (AP): Dirk Schroeder of West Germany turned in a fast, faultless jumpoff aboard Lacross to win yesterday main show jumping class in the $148,000 Stockholm International Horse Show.

Schroeder, who also had a faultless ride in the initial round, clocked 41.29 seconds in an 11-way jumpoff to easily beat Hap Hansen of the United Stats on Last Laff. Hansen clocked 46.15.

Rudolf Letter of Switzerland was third on the Olympic stadium course that had obstacles up to 1.60 metres (5 feet). The competition also served as a qualifier for today's Grand Prix.

In another show jumping class, with obstacles to 1.40 metres (4.6 feet), Henk van de Pol of the Netherlands beat Letter and fellow Swiss beat Grandjean.

Michael Pettersson of Sweden topped the three-day event ahead of Olympic champion Mark Todd of New Zealand going into today's show jumping final.

Overnight leader Ann Hardaway of the United States and her horse Tarzan slipped to 12th after yesterday's endurance phase that drew more than 70,000 fans. The endurance portion was split into four divisions on roads and tracks

Todd is riding Wellton Greyleg, a nine-year horse that is competing only in his second three-day event.

"I'm delighted. We had a very good ride," said Todd, whose Olympic gold-medal winning mount, Charisma, has retired. "He jumped the difficult fences real well."

Tyson concerned about personal image

'My success bothers some people'

NEW YORK, July 30, (Reuter): Mike Tyson, shrugging off suggestions his personal troubles affect him in the ring, said in a television interview yesterday that his success apparently bothers some people.

The undisputed world heavyweight champion, in an interview with ABC television eight days after stopping Carl "The Truth" Williams with a shattering left hook in just 93 seconds of the first round, said after watching a rerun of the fight: "I just like it when they're easy like that."

Tyson, asked if the turmoil in his personal life affects him, said, "...I'm comfortable with myself. I'm really comfortable with myself."

He said he was concerned "to a certain extent," about his personal image.

"I always think if I was just some poor, broke slob, very unhappy, nobody would ever bother me, everybody would be satisfied."

"Let me say, I'm happy, I'm rich and I don't let anything bother me and that makes people uncomfortable," Tyson, who is 23, said.

Asked if he considers himself a great champion, Tyson, 37-0, said: "I'm not indestructable. But everyone has his day.(Joe) Louis had his time, (Muhammad) Ali had his time, and in that small increment of time when you're on top you're unbeatable.

"I'm not saying I'm a great champion, or put myself in the category with Louis and Ali and (Rocky) Marciano and all those great fighters," the 23-year-old champion said. "I'm just saying for my time I can dish it as well as take it."

Mike Tyson

Gower under pressure as Ashes slip away

Police protect Botham after death threat

tralia's Stephen Waugh drives a ball from John Emburey on the 3rd day of the fourth Test. (Reuter wirephoto).

MANCHESTER, England, July 30, (Reuter): Beleaguered England cricket captain David Gower faces another tough two days both on and off the pitch when his side resume their battle to save the Ashes in the fourth Test against Australia tomorrow.

With the Australians poised to clinch the six-match series 3-0 with two to play, Gower can be sure his methods of captaincy will be scrutinised yet again.

And his refusal to attend yesterday's press conference at Old Trafford will have exacerbated the issue.

Britain's popular newspapers reacted predictably on Sunday, calling for Gower to quit as skipper after he failed to meet journalists following Australia's surge into a 181-run first innings lead with one wicket still remaining.

Under the headline "Enough is enough", the Sunday Express said: "Gower must go now. This inept England team have simply surrendered the Ashes."

The Sunday Mirror said: "It would be the best thing for him and for English cricket if he quietly called it a day and went back to the thing he does best — scoring runs."

England team manager Micky Stewart stood in for Gower at the press conference and explained: "In the light of the continual attacks he has had, both personal and in some cases abusive, we felt it would not be the most productive move to have David here.

"It was not that David did not want to face his critics — it was felt that precious little would be achieved if the conferences continued in the same manner they have consistently followed so far."

But when it suggested that Gower's absence reflected his growing disenchantment with the captaincy, Stewart retorted: "Not at all. Not one little bit."

Gower, who has lost eight of the nine Tests in which he has captained his country, has a mountain to climb to prevent a ninth failure.

Tail-enders Geoff Lawson and Terry Alderman will resume the Australian innings on 441 for nine.

By contrast, Gower's counterpart Allan Border is basking in glory. The Australian captain lashed a splendid 80 yesterday and during his innings became only the fourth man to pass 8,000 runs in Test cricket.

He overtook West Indian Gary Sobers 8,032 runs and is sure to pass Englishman Geoff Boycott's 8,114 before the end of the series. Only Indian Sunil Gavaskar's tally of 10, 122 runs looks safe for the time being.

Meanwhile police confirmed they were taking steps to protect Ian Botham after a death threat was made against the England all-rounder.

Undercover officers were reported to be on the alert at Old Trafford after a hand-written note threatening Botham would be shot was delivered to police.

Worcestershire have fine day

Essex face more trouble

LONDON, July 30, (Reuter): English County Championship leaders Essex suffered another day of torment at the hands of their Benson and Hedges Cup final conquerors Nottinghamshire yesterday.

In a miserable week they have been docked 25 points because of the poor state of their Southend wicket and deprived of victory over Middlesex when strongly placed.

Yesterday, Notts made 308 all out and then grabbed the wicket of Brian Hardie as Essex replied with 14 for one by the close.

Derek Randall struck 12 boundaries in an 83-ball knock of 76 which helped Notts recover from a middle-order collapse after being given a good start by openers Chris Broad and Paul Pollard, who shared a stand of 61.

Broad hit three boundaries in his half-century but shortly after his departure, Notts slumped to a vulnerable 161 for five as the Essex seamers enjoyed a productive spell in the afternoon session.

But prompted by Randall, the tail wagged furiously with acting captain Bruce French, all-rounder Kevin Evans and Kevin Cooper chipping in with useful contributions.

Second-placed Worcestershire, who have closed to within 11 points of the leaders, had a fine day against bottom of the table Kent, declaring after 100 overs at 402 for six.

Derek Randall

Graeme Hick

Zimbabwe's Graeme Hick made 147, his fifth century this season, and Paul Bent a career-best 144 as struggling Kent once again spent all day in the fields.

Scores

At Edgbaston: Gloucestershire 268 for seven (P. Bainbridge 98 not out, J. Lloyds 71) v Warwickshire.

At Worcester: Worcestershire 402 for six declared in 100 overs (G. Hick 147, P. Bent 144, C. Penn four for 81). Kent nought for no wicket off 0.4 overs.

At Cardiff: Glamorgan 208 in 67.3 overs (M. Cann 70, R. Shastri 46, C. Connor four for 40, S. Jefferies four for 61). Hampshire six for no wicket.

At Derby: Derbyshire 320 in 76.3 overs (P. Bowler 106, D. Malcolm 51, K. Barnett 50). Surrey 76 for four off 30 overs.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 308 in 94 overs (D. Randall 76, C. Broad 53, D. Pringle four for 79). Essex 14 for one wicket.

At Lord's: Middlesex 287 in 94 overs (M. Gatting 80, M. Ramprakash 58, P. Willey three for 40, L. Potter three for 50) v Leicestershire.

Japanese win first-ever Admiral's Cup race

COWES, Isle of Wight, July 30, (UPI): Britain team stormed into the lead in the champagne mumm Admiral's Yachting Cup today after some excellent sailing by all three of their boats in the 200-mile channel race.

The Japanese entry Will won the race, giving the country its first-ever win in an Admiral's Cup race, but British boats finished 3rd, 8th and 24th giving them a 24.5 point lead over France after two races.

It was a change of fortunes for Mike Peacock's mid-size Juno which guaranteed Britain the lead.

Juno had been among the tail-enders at the halfway mark but managed to work her way up 15 places in the last 100 miles of the race.

With Jamarella among the leading trio — sailing four hours ahead of the rest of the fleet — and Indulgence the fourth one tonner home Britain's lead was assured.

Will, whose crew only sailed together for the first time 10 days before the start of the series, led throughout the 200 mile race followed by Denmark's Andlesbanken and Jamarella, which had won Thursday's inshore race.

The Japanese entry finished four hours ahead of the fourth boat across the line — West Germany's Stockbroker Container — and six hours ahead of America's Great News — another 50 footer which should have been up with the three leaders.

With America's other two boats Bravura and Sagacious V finishing 10th and 14th it was Great News which prevented the team improving its overall position.

Despite the British success, it was Denmark who had the most remarkable race. The Danes justified starting the series as favourites by coming 2nd, 4th and 16th — raising their overall position from 10th to 4th.

Senna speeds to GP victory

Prost finishes in 2nd place

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany, July 30, (Reuter): World champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil ended his run of four consecutive non-finishes in triumphant style today when he won the West German Grand Prix motor race.

Senna, driving a McLaren, was forced to claim victory the hard way, however, snatching the lead from McLaren teammate Alain Prost of France only on the 43rd lap of the 45-lap race.

Senna's win cut Prost's lead in this year's drivers' championship to 17 points and rekindled the Brazilian's hopes of hanging on to the title he won for the first time last year.

Briton Nigel Mansell, in a Ferrari, was third — the only driver apart from Prost not to be lapped by Senna — ahead of Italian Riccardo Patrese in a Williams.

Brazilian Nelson Piquet was fifth in a Lotus and Briton Derek Warwick sixth in an Arrows.

Senna's win was the 18th in his career and lifted him to 36 points in this year's drivers' championship. Prost leads with 53.

Senna (right) gives the thumbs-up sign on the victory podium while Prost looks down. (Reuter wirephoto)

Senna had led after starting from pole position but lost his lead after 19 laps when he was held up by a lengthy pit stop.

Prost, who had been into the pits two laps earlier, went into the lead and the McLaren pair then fought out a close tussle right through to the final laps.

Prost then lost fifth gear at the end of the long straight and his error allowed the Brazilian to pass him and flash through to snatch an unlikely win.

Only 12 cars finished the race and among the retirements was accident victim Italian Emmanuele Pirro who crashed in his Benetton on the 27th lap.

He went straight on at the Agip curve and careened into the safety blocks before coming to a halt as his car began to disintegrate.

Pirro was treated at the trackside by emergency service men before being taken away in an ambulance.

Results

1. Ayrton Senna, Brazil, McLaren, one hour 21 minutes 43.302 seconds, average speed: 139.455 mph, 224.566 kph; 2. Alain Prost, France, McLaren, 1;22.01.453; 3. Nigel Mansell, Britain, Ferrari, 1:23.06.556; 4. Riccardo Patrese, Italy, Williams, at 1 lap; 5. Nelson Piquet, Brazil, Lotus, at 1 lap; 6. Derek Warwick, Britain, Arrows, at 1 lap; 7. Andrea de Cesaris, Italy, Dallara, at 1 lap; 8. Martin Brundle, Britain, Brabham, at 1 lap; 9. Pierluigi Martini, Italy, Minardi, at 1 lap; 10. Jean Alesi, France, Tyrrell, at 2 laps; 11. Rene Arnoux, France, Ligier, at 3 laps; 12. Eddie Cheever, US, Arrows, at 5 laps.

Standings

1. Alain Prost (France) 53 points; 2. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) 36; 3. Equal. Riccardo Patrese (Italy), Nigel Mansell (Britain) 25; 5. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) 13; 6. Alessandro Nannini (Italy) 12; 7. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) 8; 9. Equal. Johnny Herbert (Britain), Derek Warwick (Britain) 5

10. Equal. Mauricio Gugelmin (Brazil), Stefano Modena (Italy), Eddie Cheever (US), Andrea de Cesaris (Italy), Alex Caffi (Italy) 4.

Endurance motorcycling

Three motorcycles bumped to crash shortly after the start of the Suzuka eight-hour endurance motorcycling race is Suzuka, Japan, yesterday. Australia's James Knight and two other Japanese riders were injured in the crash. (Reuter wirephoto)

Monaco beat Sochaux

Marseille win again

PARIS, July 30, (UPI): After just two games, big-spending Marseille is alone atop the First Division of the French Soccer League.

A late first-half goal by Patrice Eyraud gave Marseille a 1-0 victory over Nantes before 40,000 fans last night at the Marseille Velodrome.

The victory was preserved when goalie Gaetan Huard stopped a penalty kick in the 51st minute.

Marseille, the only club with two victories in the first two games, was off to a fast start in its effort to repeat as French champions. Other clubs may be at a disadvantage: Nantes' coach pointed out last week that the 45 million francs ($7 million) paid to newcomer Chris Waddle is enough to cover the salary of his entire squad.

Elsewhere in the League, Bordeaux exploded for a 4-0 victory over Paris Racing before 22,000 spectators at Bordeaux, moving the club into second place.

Toulon moved into third place following a scoreless tie at Cannes.

A 75th-minute goal by Paris St Germain gave the club a 1-0 win at Parc des Princes over Metz, and propelled the Parisians into fourth place.

Mulhouse, which was moved up from Second Division, got its first victory of the season over Montpellier, 2-0, aided by a goal deflected in by a Montpellier defender in the 40th minute.

Monaco won its home opener, 2-1, over Sochaux, as did Brest, 1-0 over Lille.

Lyon, clobbered last week by Marseille, came back with a 3-0 home victory over Toulouse.

Auxerre won its first match, 1-0 over Nice, and Caen prevailed 3-2 over St Etienne.

Results

Lyon	3	Toulouse	0
Caen	3	St Etienne	2
Brest	1	Lille	0
Monaco	2	Sochaux	1
Cannes	0	Toulon	0
Bordeaux	4	Racing Paris	0
P S Germain	1	Metz	0
Mulhouse	2	Montpellier	0
Auxerre	1	Nice	0
Marseille	1	Nantes	0

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jaite triumphs

STUTTGART, West Germany, July 30, (AP): Martin Jaite of Argentina easily won the $350,000 Stuttgart Grand Prix tennis tournament today, defeating Yugoslavia's Goran Prpic 6-3, 6-2.

Paige honoured

KANSAS CITY, Missouri, July 30 (AP): Fans of the late Hall of Fame Pitcher Satchel Paige gathered at his grave yesterday for the unveiling of a monument honouring the baseball star. About 200 people attended the ceremony at Forest Hill Cemetery. Paige died in 1982

Driver dies

SPARTANBURG, South Carolina, July 30, (AP): Pioneering stock car racer Joe Littlejohn died this weekend after suffering a heart attack. He was 81. Littlejohn was the first driver to top the 100-mph (160-kph) mark in a stock car on a measured mile.

F-3000 race

TOKYO, July 30, (AP): Takao Wada, driving the last two-fifths of the race with a damaged suspension after brushing another car, edged a fellow Japanese by 0.32 seconds today for victory in the 17.7-million-yen ($126,000) Sugo F-3000 auto race.

Bienne tourney

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 30, (AP): US grandmaster Anthony Miles kept the lead with Yugoslav Ivan Sokolov today in the Bienne International Chess Tournament after their tenth round games ended in draws.

Ghafar Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, July 30, (AP): China battled to two narrow singles victories and downed defending champion South Korea 2-1 today for the Ghafar Cup Lawn Tennis Championship.

Africa Cup

NAIROBI, Kenya, July 30, (AP): Kenya held Malawi to a 0-0 draw in a second round return leg match yesterday and qualified for the finals in the Africa Cup.

Romanian athletes

OTTAWA, July 30, (KUNA): Three Romanian athletes who were participating in a boat race in Canada failed to represent their country in the semifinals and were seeking politcal asylum in Canada, it was officialy announced here last night.

Brandao

SAO PAULO, Brazil, July 30, (AP): Former soccer coach Oswaldo Brandao, who guided Brazil's national teams through the preliminaries of the 1958 and 1978 World Cups, died yesterday after a three-year struggle against lymphatic cancer. He was 72.

Niigata Open

SHITADAMURA, Japan, July 30 (AP): Katsuyoshi Tomori of Japan shot a one-under-par 71 in strong winds today and won the 50-million-yen ($357,000) NST Niigata Open golf tournament by one stroke.

Dutch Open

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands, July 30, (Reuter): Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal is poised to sweep to the top of the European Order of Merit after taking a three stroke lead after the third round of the Dutch Open golf championship yesterday.

Two-way tie

SOMERS POINT, New Jersey, July 30, (AP): Vicki Fergon, who nearly missed her tee-off time because of beach traffic, shot a 4-under-par 66 yesterday to share the lead with Chris Johnson after two rounds of the $225,000 LPGA Atlantic City Classic.

Newport Cup

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 30, (AP): Harold Henning shot a 7-under par 65 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead over Dick Hendrickson after two rounds of the 275,000 Newport Cup senior golf tournament.

Soccer tragedy

MOSCOW, July 30, (UPI): The chief investigator of a 1982 soccer game tragedy said yesterday "It is impossible to imagine that 280 corpses disappeared in Moscow," and insisted that only 66 people died in the panicked exit crush at Lenin Central Stadium.

Arsenal beat Liverpool

WEMBLEY, England, July 30, (AP): Arsenal warmed up for the defence of its English League soccer title today by winning a four-team international exhibition tournament with a 1-0 victory over domestic rival Liverpool.

In a repeat of last season's dramatic championship decider, Arsenal again triumphed to win the Makita International Trophy with a 13-minute goal by centreback Steve Bould.

George Graham's League champions played sparkling soccer as it dominated the first half.

Michael Thomas, the midfielder who scored the vital second goal in Arsenal's 2-0 victory at Liverpool two months ago, had a goal disallowed in the tenth minute.

But three minutes later Nigel Winterburn's free kick was glanced over goalie Bruce Grobbelaar by Steve Bould to give Arsenal the lead.

Thomas had another effort saved by Grobbelaar and it took the half-time interval to shake life into a lethargic Liverpool. After the break, substitute Ian Rush flashed an effort over the bar and then John Barnes flicked a header wide.

Arsenal survived furious late Liverpool pressure to hold on to its lead.

In the playoff for third place, Dinamo Kiev of the Soviet Union beat Porto of Portugal 1-0.

Ringnald and Pettigrew triumph

OKLAHOMA CITY, July 30, (UPI): All-around gymnastics winner Lance Ringnald added three gold medals during the event finals and national champion Antonio Pettigrew captured the 400-metre dash in brutally hot conditions last night at the US Olympic Festival.

The temperature reached 123 degrees on the artificial track surface on the campus of the University of Oklahoma and a gusty wind added another problem for performers during the second evening of track and field.

Pettigrew, however, paced himself and held off a challenge from Mark Rowe to win the 400 metres in 45.20. Pettigrew and Rowe also finished 1-2 in the recent TAC Championship.

Gusting winds swept the area yesterday, eventually blowing so hard that they forced postponement of four rowing events until the evening. Despite those winds, however, Wendy Lucero and Kent Ferguson won the 3-metre diving gold medals.

Ringnald, leading an American team warming up for the world gymnastic championships later this year, overwhelmed his teammates Thursday night in winning the all-around gold.

During the event finals yesterday he won the floor exercise — the first of six disciplines contested — and then won the parallel bars and horizontal bar. Ringnald, 19, was the youngest member of the American national team in 20 years when he joined it last year and now ranks as the team leader.

The other event gold medals were won by Chris Wallker in the pommel horse, Tim Ryan on the rings and Mike Racanelli on the vault.

Pettigrew won the 400 metres despite a slightly twisted ankle.

In addition to Pettigrew, the early winners at the track last night included Terri Dendy in the women's 400 (51.71) and Tom Pukstys in the javelin (240-11).

At the pool, meanwhile, one of the events was won by the favourite and another by a large underdog.

Lucero, 26, who considered retiring from competitive diving as late as two weeks ago, was an easy winner despite a poor entry on her final dive. She scored 480.45 points, comfortably ahead of silver medal winner Alison Maisch.

"It was nice weather, but it was pretty windy," Lucero said, "and I messed up my last dive. Other than that, I'm pretty happy. I've never been the favourite going into the finals, but this was good for me. It teaches me how to handle the pressure."

American diving standouts Wendy Williams and Wendy Wyland were forced to miss the festival because of injury and illness.

Ferguson, meanwhile, beat Olympian Mark Bradshaw by only thre points in winning the men's 3-metre gold medal.

During the past week Ferguson has flown to Oklahoma from Florida, then taken a round trip to Los Angeles for a casting call that could land him a lucrative modelling job.

"I thought I had better go to Los Angeles," Ferguson said. "It's a potentially great job. If I hadn't gone, I would have sat and wondered whether I would have gotten it. Modelling takes my mind off diving.

"But when the finals came around, I was ready for them."

Mark Lenzi again tried the 41/2 somersault dive off the 3-metre board, but failed to complete last rotation and received scores of only 2 and 3 out of a possible 10. Lenzi finished seventh in the finals. Lenzi is the first American ever to try the dive.

Meanwhile Margaret Ulett, a 14-year-old gymnast who was carried from the Myriad Arena on a stretcher following a mishap during her floor exercise routine was released from a local hospital early yesterday.

Fanja crush Salgaocar

MUSCAT, Oman, July 30, (AP): Striker Hilal Hamid Hamoud scored a first-half hat-trick as home side Fanja beat Indian champions Salgaocar Sports Club 3-1 (3-0) in the 9th Asian Club Championship Group III qualifying round match yesterday.

The win in scorching 50-degree Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) temperatures at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex at Baushar took Fanja to the second round of the championship which will be played in September.

The venue for the second round and the finals in December has not yet been decided.

Fanja played a skilful rythmic game that stretched the Indian defence across the full width of the grass pitch.

Hamoud netted a low header off a Nasser Khamis cross from Abdullah Jumah in the 12th minute to put Fanja 1-0 ahead. He converted a penalty in the 17th minute to make it 2-0.

Salgaocar back Rajkumar Lotlikar fouled Hila in the box and Kuwaiti referee Issa Al Jasas awarded the penalty.

NBA veterans defeat Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan, July 30, (AP): Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored his last sky hook today when he helped a US All-Star basketball team to 133-117 victory over a Taiwan team in an exhibition game.

Abdul-Jabbar, who retired from the National Basketball Association earlier this year, said he would hang up his basketball jersey for good after today's match.

"I am giving up basketball," he told a news conference. "I'll try acting, develop my story into scripts, and spend more of my time with my children."

After the historic sky hook, the former Los Angeles Lakers star ran around the floor as some 8,000 spectators gave him an emotional standing ovation.

Abdul-Jabbar and his team of former NBA players, dubbed the Daedals, led the Taiwan team 71-53 at halftime.

George "Iceman" Gervin led the Americans with 29 points, and Taiwan's Lee Chih-Chiang scored 46. Abdul-Jabbar scored 14.

The Daedels lineup also featured Marques Johnson, Bob McAdoo, Johnny Moore and Artis Gilmore.

Johnson wants to run for Jamaica

KINGSTON, July 30, (Reuter): Sprinter Ben Johnson said he would like to compete for Jamaica after the conclusion of his two-year ban from the Olympics for using prohibited anabolic steroids, the Jamaica Record reported yesterday.

"If I am clean, I should be able to run for Jamaica because I am a Jamaican," the Record quoted Johnson as saying during a week's visit to the island.

However, Teddy McCook, president of the Jamaica Athletic Association, has told reporters that no athlete found guilty of using banned substances will be allowed to compete in Jamaican colours.

The Jamaica-born Johnson was competing for Canada at the Seoul Olympics last September when he was banned from the event and stripped of a gold medal.

Johnson, who recently testified before a Canadian inquiry on drug abuse in sports, has admitted to using stanazol and other banned substances during his athletic career.

Johnson: has admitted to use of drugs

Stewart takes one-stroke lead

Sutton 2nd after three rounds

Stewart: had 10 birdies

GRAND BLANC, MI., July 30, (Reuter): Payne Stewart shot the low round of the tournament with an eight-under par 64 for a 54 hole total 202 to lead after the third round of the $1 million Grand Blanc Open golf tournament yesterday.

Behind the front runners are Americans Bob Eastwood, first round leader Leonard Thompson and co-second-round leader Tewell.

Stewart opened with rounds of 71 and 67 and began yesterday three strokes behind co-leaders and fellow-Americans Hal Sutton and Doug Tewell.

Stewart began his round with a par on the first hole, but rallied for four consecutive birdies to jump to 10-under and tie Sutton for the early lead. His 15-foot putt for birdie on number seven pushed him into the lead at 11-under and he stayed atop the leader board throughout the round. He had 10 birdies on the day.

Stewart bogeyed the eighth hole from four feet, and on the back nine recorded his second bogey at number 17 when he hit his shot into the bunker, but followed that with a birdie on the final hole hitting a seven-iron from behind a tree to within five feet of the hole.

"I had a pretty solid round," Stewart said. "I hit some good golf shots and made some putts. I missed some putts, but when you're playing like this you don't think you'll miss any."

One shot back of Stewart is Sutton, who turned in a four-under-par 68 for a three-day total 203. Sutton began his round with a birdie on the fourth, but followed two holes later with a bogey on six. He completed his front nine with a birdie on nine. On the final nine, Sutton birdied three of four holes on 13 through 16, with 40-and 30-foot birdies on 13 and 14.

"I played fairly well," Sutton said. "I missed some opportunities, but I saved some too. Payne's round today is an example of what can happen on Sunday. Someone can make a bunch of birdies and run away and hide."

Fergon and Johnson share lead

SOMERS PT., N.J., July 30, (Reuter): Americans Vicki Fergon and Chris Johnson share the lead after the second round of the $225,000 Atlantic City Classic golf tournament yesterday.

Fergon had a four-under-par 66, began the day three shots behind first-round leader compatriot American Nancy Lopez, who dropped to second place with an even-par 70.

Johnson, who began at two-under, posted another 68 over the 6,020-yard course.

"Lately I have had a hard time getting myself into position for the final round," Johnson said. "I've been working on keeping my cool and fighting instead of getting down on myself."

Johnson bogeyed her second hole to fall back to one-under par and two strokes out of the lead. She birdied holes five and eight to tie with Lopez for the lead at three-under. A bogey on the par-five ninth hole brought her back to two-under for the tournament.

Fergon was extremely pleased to even be in the tournament much less be tied for the lead.

"I almost missed my teetime this afternoon," she said. "Not being from here, I didn't know everyone heads to the beach on Saturday. The traffic was horrendous."

Fergon birdied the first hole and posted two more birdies on three and four but bogeyed the fifth after failing to save par from a bunker.

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